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Date	Subject	
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U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces \$23 Million Recovery Act Grant Agreement for Downtown Dallas Streetcar Project



1/20/2011

**Contact: Paul Griffo
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Route Will Run through Largest Jobs Center in North Texas

WASHINGTON ♦ The much anticipated Downtown Dallas Streetcar project is a step closer to reality as the result of a grant agreement signed by the Federal Transit Administration and the North Central Texas Council of Governments, U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced today. ♦ The project received \$23 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) program. ♦

♦ The Dallas streetcar project is another great example of how the Recovery Act is creating jobs and providing accessible transportation, ♦ Secretary LaHood said. ♦ Residents will soon be able to take the streetcar to work or shopping downtown. ♦ It will also provide a direct connection to light rail and commuter rail at Union Station. ♦

The Downtown Dallas Streetcar will run along Main Street through the largest job center in the North Texas area with a stop at Union Station, providing access to Dallas Area Rapid Transit Authority (DART) light rail service, and to the Trinity Railway Express between Dallas and Fort Worth.

♦ In addition to creating much-needed jobs for workers in Dallas, this proposed streetcar line will advance economic growth in downtown neighborhoods by linking them with major employment centers throughout the region, ♦ said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff.

The streetcar route also includes stops at the Dallas Convention Center and Hotel, Trinity River Park, Methodist Medical Center, the Oak Cliff Gateway area and many residential areas.

In addition to the Dallas project, transit projects in Detroit, Tucson, Ariz., New Orleans, Portland, Ore., and the Washington, D.C. area were recently awarded grants ranging from \$23 million to \$63 million from the Recovery Act's TIGER program. ♦

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces \$63 Million Recovery Act Grant Agreement for Tucson, Ariz. Modern Streetcar Project



1/20/2011

**Contact: Paul Griffo
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Streetcar Will Connect Lower-Income Communities to City's Job Centers

WASHINGTON ♦ Tucson's Modern Streetcar project received a boost from a signed grant agreement between the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the city of Tucson, U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced today. ♦ The project received \$63 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) program. ♦

♦ Investments like Tucson's Modern Streetcar project are at the heart of President Obama's efforts to create jobs and give people access to convenient, affordable transportation options, ♦ said Secretary LaHood. ♦ This Recovery Act money will help give people greater access to Tucson's employment centers like the University of Arizona. ♦

The 3.9-mile modern streetcar line will connect the city's major activity centers, including the Arizona Health Sciences Center, the University of Arizona main campus, downtown Tucson, the El Rio Community Health Center, and other retail and business developments. The TIGER grant will help to fund construction of stations, stops, terminals, tracks and support facilities, as well as the purchase of streetcar vehicles and land.

♦ This new service will greatly improve transportation options for the region, especially for the residents who will live or work within walking distance of the streetcar route, ♦ said FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff

In addition to the Tucson streetcar, transit projects in Detroit, New Orleans, Dallas, Portland , Ore., and the Washington, D.C. area were recently awarded grants ranging from \$23 million to \$63 million from the Recovery Act's TIGER program. ♦

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces \$23.2 Million Grant Agreement for Reconstruction of SW Moody Avenue in Portland



1/20/2011

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Projects Will Expand Options for Transit, Development Along South Waterfront

WASHINGTON ♦ Reconstruction of Moody Avenue in the South Waterfront area of Portland, Ore., will soon begin thanks to a grant agreement between the City of Portland and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced today. ♦ The project received \$23.2 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act ♦s TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) program.

The Recovery Act money will help widen the street and add dual streetcar tracks and three automobile traffic lanes. ♦ The street will also be elevated 14 feet to link with a transit bridge currently under construction. ♦ The bridge will accommodate streetcar, light rail, bus, bicycle and pedestrian traffic.

♦The Moody Avenue reconstruction project is another great example of how the Recovery Act is creating jobs and giving people access to convenient, affordable transportation options, ♦ said Secretary LaHood. ♦

♦This innovative transit project will not only create jobs and streamline transportation on Southwest Moody Avenue, but it will also transform an area that was once deemed an environmental hazard into an engine of economic growth, ♦ said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff.

Raising the street will allow surrounding land, which had been designated a Superfund cleanup site by the Environmental Protection Agency, to be developed without degrading the site further. When complete, the South Waterfront district is projected to house 5,000 residents and employ 10,000 people.

In addition to Southwest Moody Avenue, transit projects in Detroit, Tucson, Ariz., New Orleans, Dallas and the Washington, D.C. area were awarded grants ranging from \$23 million to \$63 million from the TIGER program.

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U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces \$25 Million Recovery Act Grant Agreement for Detroit Light Rail Project



1/20/2011

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Project Will Create Jobs, Increase Transportation Options and Spur Development

WASHINGTON ♦ The proposed Woodward Avenue Light Rail project in Detroit is a step closer to reality thanks to a signed grant agreement between the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the city of Detroit, and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced today. ♦ The project received \$25 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) program.

In August 2010, Secretary LaHood and FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff visited Detroit to announce that an initial 3.4-mile, 12-station light rail line had been selected to receive the funds.

♦ Building this light rail system will create jobs for this great American city, and it will stimulate long-term economic growth by attracting investment to downtown Detroit and the New Center area, ♦ said Secretary LaHood.

The initial phase of the light rail line would connect downtown Detroit to Grand Boulevard in the New Center district along the region's main travel artery via Woodward Avenue. ♦ A second planned phase would extend the light rail line approximately 5.9 miles from Grand Boulevard to Eight-Mile Road near the state fairgrounds, for a total of 9.3 miles. ♦ ♦ The FTA is currently completing an environmental impact statement for both phases of the project.

In December 2008, the Michigan legislature passed a bill to allow a private/non-profit entity to plan, build, operate and maintain rail service in the Detroit region. ♦ In early 2009, the Detroit Department of Transportation announced that it would join forces with M1 Rail, a consortium of local businesses, to implement light rail on Woodward Avenue.

♦ Expanding transit options with light rail will help jumpstart Detroit's economy, ♦ Rogoff said. ♦ ♦ The FTA looks forward to partnering with

Mayor Bing, MDOT and the local business community to make the entire 9.3 mile project a real transportation choice for the region.◆

In addition to the Detroit light rail system, transit projects in New Orleans, Tucson, Ariz., Dallas, Portland, Ore., and the Washington, D.C. area were awarded grants ranging from \$23 million to \$63 million from the TIGER program.

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U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces \$45 Million Recovery Act Grant Agreement for New Orleans Streetcar Project



1/20/2011

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Project Will Increase Transportation Options, Spur Development

WASHINGTON ♦ Progress continues on the Union Passenger Terminal/Loyola Loop Streetcar project thanks to a signed grant agreement between the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the New Orleans Regional Transportation Authority, U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced today. ♦ The project received \$45 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) program.

♦ This Recovery Act money means more jobs for workers in New Orleans, and greater access to the central business district, where the jobs are, ♦ Secretary LaHood said. ♦ And for those traveling outside the city, it will provide a seamless link to Amtrak trains, as well. ♦

The Terminal is a major southern hub for Amtrak, with three trains serving the station. Secretary LaHood and FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff visited New Orleans just over a year ago to announce \$280 million the Obama Administration made available for streetcars and other urban circulator projects.

The Union Passenger Terminal/Loyola Loop Streetcar will run through New Orleans ♦ central business district along Loyola Avenue from the Union Passenger Terminal to Canal Street.

♦ Not only will this project create much-needed jobs for the workers of New Orleans, but it will also expand the streetcar network to new communities and stimulate development and job creation along Loyola Avenue, ♦ Rogoff said.

The Loyola Avenue corridor is home to significant commercial and business activity, including the city's energy, government, health care, financial and entertainment sectors.

In addition to the New Orleans streetcar, transit projects in Detroit, Tucson, Ariz., Dallas, Portland, Ore., and the Washington, D.C. area were recently

awarded grants ranging from \$23 million to \$63 million from the Recovery Act's TIGER program.

###

Build Week ♦ Tour Highlights Transportation Projects That Reflect President ♦s Goal to ♦Win the Future ♦ By Investing in America



2/8/2011

**Contact: Paul Griffo
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Tour Begins Today In Raleigh; U.S. Transportation Officials Showcase New Transit Maintenance Facility

RALEIGH, NC ♦ The U.S. Department of Transportation today highlighted an energy-efficient bus maintenance facility that ♦s helping one of America ♦s fastest growing cities meet rising demand for safe, efficient public transportation. The \$28.6 million facility now under construction, being built with \$22.3 million from the Federal Transit Administration, is one of several federally funded projects around the nation that are moving America closer to meeting the goal President Obama set forth in his State of the Union Address to ♦out-build the rest of the world. ♦

Raleigh is one of the first stops on the Obama Administration ♦s ♦Build Week, ♦ a week-long tour by Administration officials to showcase projects that are already making a big difference in the economy by spurring private sector investment and creating jobs in the communities where they are being built. Deputy Secretary John Porcari attended the event.

The Raleigh event takes place as Vice President Joe Biden and Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood, at an event in Philadelphia, announce a comprehensive plan to continue construction of a national high-speed and intercity passenger rail network.

♦The Obama Administration understands that in order to win the future and grow America ♦s economy over the long-term, we must modernize our national transportation network, ♦ said Secretary LaHood. ♦We ♦re committed to repairing our existing infrastructure and building new ways to move people, goods and information around so we can strengthen our communities and our economy. ♦

Capital Area Transit ♦s new 23-acre operations and maintenance facility, which will potentially accommodate 200 transit buses up from 50 today, incorporates a number of ♦green ♦ technologies, including geothermal heating and cooling, water cisterns for external irrigation, the promotion of natural light for work spaces, and the use of recycled and rapidly renewable resources.

◆Our up-front investment in projects like this one helps to put skilled construction workers on the payroll today and promote energy efficiency and accommodate transit expansion for years to come,◆ said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff, who was also in town to tour the project.

Rogoff announced this week that the Federal Transit Administration has made \$3 billion in formula funding available to states, local communities and transit agencies nationwide to modernize and rebuild their transportation systems. These funds serve as the lifeblood in the federal partnership with states and communities seeking to build new infrastructure, invest in more transit options, make repairs to existing bus and rail lines, and to ensure transit serving rural areas receives much needed operating funds.

Other scheduled ◆Build Week◆ events include:

- Tuesday, Feb. 8: Federal Highway Administrator Victor Mendez will tour a Daytona Beach, Florida project to create a new roadway and bridge over I-95, spurring economic growth by connecting existing commercial and residential development.
- Wednesday, Feb. 9: Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff will tour one of the busiest Red Line transit stations in Cleveland, Ohio, where workers are building a new, higher-capacity station to replace the original Puritas Station, which was built in 1966.
- Thursday, Feb. 10: Federal Aviation Administration Deputy Administrator Michael Huerta will tour a Cessna manufacturing plant in Wichita, Kansas, where he will highlight the benefits of the business expensing tax credit on general aviation manufacturers.
- Friday, Feb. 11: Deputy Secretary John Porcari will tour the I-75 Reconstruction Project in Dayton, Ohio, which will remove a major downtown bottleneck and spur economic growth.
- Friday, Feb. 11: Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff will tour the under-construction Intermodal Transit Terminal in Fort Pierce, Florida.

###

FTA Administrator Rogoff Continues ♦Build Week♦ In Cleveland; Spotlights Projects That Advance President♦s Goal to ♦Win the Future♦ by Investing in America



2/9/2011

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Tours GCRTA's New Puritas Red Line Rapid Transit Station

CLEVELAND, OH ♦ Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff today toured the construction site for the new Puritas Rapid Transit station, a high-capacity rail station that will replace the original one built in 1966. ♦ Puritas is one of the busiest stations along Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority♦s Rapid Red Line.

♦The Obama Administration's commitment to projects like the Puritas station will help ensure that Cleveland has access to safe, economical and efficient transportation while reducing America♦s dependence on fossil fuels, ♦ said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. ♦Investing in Cleveland's transportation infrastructure continues to keep construction workers on the job and the city's economy moving forward. ♦

The \$11.6 million station, built with \$10.3 million from the Federal Transit Administration and including \$5.3 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act dollars, is one of several federally-funded projects around the nation that are moving America closer to meeting the goal President Obama set forth in his State of the Union Address to win the future by investing in America.

♦These investments are going to mean good jobs right here in Cleveland," Administrator Rogoff said. "Building brand new rail stations like the Puritas station will allow us to revive construction jobs while improving the daily commute for thousands of Cleveland residents for generations to come. This is the way we are going to keep our economy and the RTA moving forward."

The project includes a 2,500-square foot main entrance building with a brick grand foyer and a rounded portico outlined in sandstone, a 30-foot tower that houses two elevators that provide access for persons with disabilities, and a 130-foot bridge that brings passengers over the Rapid tracks to the boarding platform, and a new 486-space parking lot. The Puritas station project broke ground in May 2009, and is expected to be completed this spring.

As part of the kick-off of President Obama's Build Week, Secretary LaHood and Administrator Rogoff announced a \$3 billion infusion of formula funds to states, local communities, and transit agencies nationwide. The funds provide a crucial boost to communities seeking to build more transit, make repairs to existing bus and rail lines and other capital equipment, and ensure transit serving rural areas receives much needed operating funds.

Cleveland is Administrator Rogoff's second stop in Build Week, a week-long tour by Department of Transportation officials to showcase projects that are already making a big difference in the economy by spurring economic development and creating jobs in the communities where they are being built. On Tuesday, Rogoff visited Raleigh, North Carolina, where he joined Transportation Deputy Secretary John Porcari for a tour of a federally-funded construction project where more than 100 workers are on-site each day building a new bus maintenance and operations facility that will eventually support up to 200 buses, and on Friday Rogoff will tour the work site of an Intermodal Transit Terminal in the City of Fort Pierce in St. Lucie County, Florida.

###

◆Build Week◆ Tour Comes to Fort Pierce; Intermodal Facility Advances President◆s Goal to ◆Win the Future◆ By Investing in America



2/11/2011

**Contact: Paul Griffo
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FORT PIERCE, FL ◆ Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff today toured the site where construction workers are building the new St. Lucie Intermodal Transit Facility. The \$3.2 million station, built with \$1.4 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act dollars, is a showcase of how American workers are meeting President Obama◆s goal to ◆out-build the rest of the world.◆

◆This is an important investment in the future of Fort Pierce and St. Lucie County,◆ said U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood. ◆This will provide a needed spark for the local economy by creating revenue for local businesses and jobs for workers.◆

The 5,400 square foot bus terminal and transfer station includes an open colonnade waiting area for transit riders, space for ticket sales, a drivers◆ lounge, handicap accessible public restrooms, a park-and-ride lot, bike racks and a pedestrian/bike trail. This sustainable ◆green◆ facility is equipped with photovoltaic roof panels and a cistern system for reclaimed water.

◆President Obama's vision for winning the future means more job-creating projects just like this one, both here in Florida and across the nation," Administrator Rogoff said. ◆These investments will bolster our economy now while providing the residents of Florida with improved, energy efficient transit options for generations to come.◆

Fort Pierce is one of the final stops of the Obama Administration◆s ◆Build Week,◆ a week-long tour by Administration officials to showcase projects that are already making a big difference in the economy by spurring private sector investment and creating jobs in the communities where they are being built.

Earlier this week, Administrator Rogoff visited Raleigh, North Carolina, where he joined Transportation Deputy Secretary John Porcari for a tour of a federally-funded bus maintenance and operations facility construction project. He was also in Cleveland, Ohio, where workers are building a new,

higher-capacity rapid transit station to replace the original Puritas Station, which was built in 1966.◆

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces Details of President's Plan to Invest Record \$3.2 Billion in Nation's Transit Infrastructure



2/15/2011

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Funding for 10 New Capital Projects Across America Included

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced funding recommendations for 10 new capital transit construction projects around the country as part of President Obama's FY12 budget request. The Obama Administration's budget proposal, announced yesterday, included a record \$3.2 billion in funding for 28 transit construction projects across the United States that will increase mobility, reduce energy consumption, curb air pollution, and help our nation compete to win.

"As President Obama made clear in his State of the Union Address, we must win the future by investing in a modern transportation network that will enable us to out-compete the rest of the world," Secretary LaHood said. "The projects we are proposing to Congress are an important down payment on the President's promise to strengthen our transportation networks for the 21st century."

The spending plan included in President Obama's budget submitted to Congress yesterday recommends investing \$569.3 million in [10 new transit construction projects](#), including rail and bus rapid transit projects in Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Michigan, Oregon, Texas, Utah and Washington State. An additional [11 projects that were recommended for funding](#) in previous years, but have not yet received federal commitments, are also being recommended for \$1.4 billion in this year's budget.

"The projects we're recommending for funding this year have so far met the demanding requirements of the Federal Transit Administration's New Starts program, which ensures that they represent a good investment of taxpayer dollars," said Administrator Peter Rogoff. "I'm confident these projects will go a long way toward making our communities stronger, offer more transportation choices and open the door to new opportunities for millions of Americans."

In addition to the transit construction projects that have not yet been funded, the budget provides \$835.4 million for the continued funding [of](#)

[seven additional rail transit projects already operational or under construction](#) in New York, Dallas, Salt Lake City, Seattle, and Northern Virginia.◆◆

Several additional projects that might become ready for federal funding during FY 2012 were mentioned as possible candidates for \$400 million that is included in the President's budget for capital transit projects. These include the [Westside Subway Extension \(Subway to the Sea\) \(PDF\)](#) and the [Regional Connector Transit Corridor \(PDF\)](#)◆in Los Angeles; the [Columbia River Crossing \(PDF\)](#) in the Portland, Oregon and Vancouver, Washington area; and the [Charlotte Blue Line Extension \(PDF\)](#)◆in North Carolina.

All the recommendations are part of the [FTA's Annual Report on Funding Recommendations for Fiscal Year 2012](#).

###

FTA Administrator Joins Senator Reid, Nevada Officials To Break Ground on Sahara Express Bus Rapid Transit



2/24/2011

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Project received \$34.4 million from Recovery Act's TIGER Grant Program Will Help Achieve President's State of the Union Goal to Win the future

Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff joined Senator Harry M. Reid and local officials today to break ground on the Sahara Express Bus Rapid Transit line, which will improve access along one of the busiest employment corridors in Las Vegas. The \$45.2 million project received \$34.4 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds earlier this year from the Federal Transit Administration.

The groundbreaking comes just weeks after President Obama announced his determination to win the future by out-building, out-innovating, and out-educating the rest of our nation's global economic competitors.

◆The Sahara Express is the kind of targeted transportation investment that will create good middle-class jobs to keep our economy moving forward,◆ U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said.◆ ◆It will enable Las Vegas to construct a modern, energy-efficient transit system that will spur local economic growth and development for years to come.◆

"Over two years later, the Economic Recovery Act is still putting Nevadans back to work," said Senator Reid.◆ "Not only will this project create hundreds of good paying jobs, the new bus line will spur badly needed economic growth and development in the city.◆ While there is still work to be done, this is exactly the kind of initiative we need to continue creating jobs and getting our state's economy back on track."◆

◆The new bus line will be a magnet for new commercial and residential development along the corridor, which has been hit hard by the economic downturn, and will make it easier than ever for people to get from where they live in the Valley to downtown and the Strip.◆ Administrator Rogoff said. ◆Best of all, federally funded construction of new bus lanes, stations, and other components are expected to generate nearly 500 private-sector jobs in one of the regions hit hardest by the recession.◆

The project was one of [51 transportation projects \(PDF\)](#) selected in February 2010 to receive grants from the Recovery Act's TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant program, a national competition for innovative transportation projects that promise significant economic and environmental benefits for a metropolitan area, a region, or the nation.

The Sahara Express bus rapid transit line, adjacent to both existing and planned residential and commercial development, will run 12 miles in dedicated lanes down Sahara Avenue, one of the major east-west thoroughfares in Las Vegas. Improvements to Sahara Avenue that will benefit motorists and pedestrians include upgraded traffic signals and new sidewalks. Since the dedicated bus lane does not take away from existing traffic lanes, Sahara Avenue traffic capacity will be largely unaffected.

In addition to expanding transit service in the western part of the valley, the new Sahara Express service will also provide direct connections with the Strip & Downtown Express bus rapid transit service, Deuce on the Strip double-decker buses and the Las Vegas Monorail.

###

FTA Administrator Rogoff, Congressman Reyes, Tour Proposed Route of El Paso's Mesa Corridor Bus Rapid Transit



International Gateway Is One of 10 New Projects in the President's Budget Proposal

2/25/2011

**Contact: Paul Griffo
(202) 366-4064**

Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff today joined Rep. Silvestre Reyes on a tour of the proposed Mesa Corridor bus rapid transit project in El Paso. The project, recommended for \$13 million in the proposed FY 2012 budget, would improve bus service, help reduce congestion along the corridor and bring major transportation and development benefits to the El Paso area.

◆The Mesa Corridor rapid transit project is a great example of how a targeted transportation investment contributes to America's economic success,◆ U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said. ◆The project has already captured the imagination of both policy makers and private investors who see tremendous potential for new development along the Mesa Corridor.◆

The \$27.1 million line would extend 8.6 miles northwest along Mesa Street from the current Downtown Transit Terminal near the Paso del Norte International Bridge, ending at the new Westside Transit Terminal. Ten low-floor, 60-foot compressed natural gas ◆accordion◆ buses would provide service every ten minutes during weekday peak periods.

◆The Mesa Corridor bus rapid transit project will truly be a gateway of opportunity for the citizens of Mesa,◆ Administrator Rogoff said. ◆And with so many El Paso-area residents already dependent on transit to get to work or to school, improved transit is essential to bringing economic recovery to the region. This project is at the heart of President Obama's vision to win the future by investing in our own infrastructure◆

Mesa Corridor would be the first of four proposed bus rapid transit lines that tie the entire region together from the Downtown Transit Terminal. Sun Metro estimates the project will be complete in September 2013. It is expected to carry nearly 12,000 riders a day during weekdays by 2015.

The President's FY 2012 budget also includes [new funding for rail and bus rapid transit projects](#) in Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Michigan, Oregon, Utah and Washington State. The recommendations are part of the FTA's [Annual Report on Funding Recommendations for Fiscal Year 2012](#).

###

FTA Deputy Administrator Therese McMillan Receives Distinguished Alumni Award From UC Berkeley's College of Environmental Design



3/4/2011

**Contact: Paul Griffo
(202) 366-4064**

Federal Transit Deputy Administrator Therese W. McMillan today received the 2011 Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of California Berkeley's College of Environmental Design. The award is given annually to recognize alumni for outstanding professional, social, academic, artistic, or other achievements at the local, national or international level.

◆I congratulate Therese on receiving the Distinguished Alumni Award, and for her lifetime achievements in the transportation industry,◆ said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. ◆We are fortunate to have her at the Department, and her appointment as Deputy Administrator is a testimony to the caliber and expertise of those who serve in the Obama Administration.◆

McMillan was appointed Deputy Administrator of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in July 2009. She joins Administrator Peter Rogoff in leading a staff of more than 500 in the Washington D.C. headquarters office and ten regional offices throughout the United States and manages an annual budget of approximately \$10 billion.

◆Therese brings a keen ability to assess, analyze and improve the way FTA does business,◆ said FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff. ◆She has been instrumental in strengthening FTA's civil rights and program oversight, and leading our effort to build smarter, more livable communities that better connect people with the places they need to go. Therese is an invaluable asset to the FTA and we are proud of this recognition of her achievement.◆

McMillan is also a member of a team developing principles that will drive the reauthorization of federal surface transportation policy that the Administration and Congress will negotiate in the near future.

Prior to her appointment as FTA Deputy Administrator, McMillan served for nine years as Deputy Executive Director for Policy at the San Francisco Bay Area Region's Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC). There she was responsible for strategic financial planning and MTC's management of federal, state and regional fund sources for transportation; state and federal

legislative advocacy; and public affairs and community outreach. In addition, she oversaw the planning, including long range plans of transportation/land use, air quality and freight issues. Before that, she served for seven years as MTC's Manager of Funding and External Affairs.

◆It has been a privilege for me to serve both the people of the San Francisco region and the people of this nation on behalf of President Obama and Secretary LaHood by having a first-hand role in building and expanding the transportation infrastructure that is so critical to America's continued economic vitality,◆ McMillan said. ◆To be recognized by my alma mater for my life of public service makes it all the more satisfying.◆

McMillan received her B.S. degree from UC Davis in environmental policy analysis and planning in April 1981, which included an internship with the California Transportation Commission in Sacramento, cementing her career-long interest in transportation. After UC Davis, she pursued graduate studies at UC Berkeley's College of Environmental Design (CED), where she was a member of the first graduating class for the dual master's program in transportation, receiving an M.S. in civil engineering science in December 1983 and a Master of City Planning in May 1984. She was a member of the CED alumni board from 2005 to 2009, serving as both vice chair and chair.

From 2004 through 2009, Ms. McMillan also taught a course in transportation funding and finance for the graduate transportation studies program at San Jose State University's Mineta Transportation Institute.

###

Kent, Ohio Officials Break Ground on Central Gateway Multimodal Transit Facility to Serve as Centerpiece for Economic Redevelopment



4/4/2011

**Contact: Paul Griffo
(202) 366-4064**

Obama Administration's \$20 million Recovery Act Investment Will Create 266 New Construction Jobs and Will Expand Kent Residents' Transit Choices

Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority (PARTA) officials, city officials and others today broke ground on the Central Gateway Multimodal Transit Facility in Kent, Ohio. The new facility, funded by a \$20 million investment through the Obama Administration's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grant Program, was the very first TIGER grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Transportation

The Central Gateway Multimodal Facility will create an estimated 266 jobs in the construction trades and will serve as the centerpiece of a public-private \$80 million investment to revitalize Kent's downtown area. The economic development effort is expected to create more than 700 new long-term jobs.

The Kent facility was the Administration's very first TIGER grant award and we could not be more proud of the effort made to make this day possible, said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. President Obama continues to challenge our nation to out-build and out-innovate the rest of the world, and I applaud the City of Kent for its vision that helps to achieve that goal.

The new Kent facility will not only benefit the local economy, but it will also benefit the environment. Planners are striving to achieve a LEED Silver Certification by embracing innovative energy efficient technologies, including solar panels, geothermal technology, and other green building methods. The result is expected to be a multimodal facility that saves taxpayers money by cutting back on energy costs over the long-term.

This investment is for more than just bricks and mortar, it's a down payment on improving the quality of life for the residents of Kent and Portage County made possible only through the Recovery Act. This facility will bridge Kent State and the surrounding community like never before, and connect Kent residents to Akron and Cleveland with greater

efficiency, said Administrator Peter Rogoff of the Federal Transit Administration.

The U.S. Department of Transportation announced the selection of \$1.5 billion in TIGER grants for 51 projects as part of the one-year anniversary of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act on February 17, 2010.

###

FTA Administrator Rogoff Announces \$6.3 Million for New Britain-Hartford Busway Project



4/11/2011

Contact: Brian Farber

202-366-4043

Project Will Increase Transportation Options, Spur Economic Development

Progress continues on the New Britain-Hartford Busway project thanks to a \$6.3 million Federal Transit Administration (FTA) formula grant announced today by FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff. The grant will provide dollars for engineering services and property acquisition.

◆The Obama Administration is pleased to partner with the people of Connecticut to create jobs now on a project to ease the punishing congestion on I-84.◆ said Rogoff. ◆Governor Malloy◆s support of this ready-to-go project echoes the Administration◆s position that this is a smart, cost-effective investment in Connecticut◆s transportation future. This grant keeps us moving forward.◆

The Connecticut Department of Transportation proposes to construct the New Britain-Hartford Busway, an exclusive-guideway bus rapid transit system along a 9.4-mile corridor between downtown New Britain and downtown Hartford. The busway would run parallel to Interstate 84, the primary transportation link between New Britain, West Hartford, and downtown Hartford. To date, FTA has provided \$69 million in support of the project.

In addition to the New Britain-Hartford Busway project, President Obama◆s proposed 2012 budget includes funding for busway projects in El Paso, San Francisco, Seattle, Jacksonville, Oakland, Fresno and Grand Rapids ◆ projects that will greatly improve mobility and reduce congestion while creating thousands of jobs right now, precisely when they are needed.

###

Deputy Transit Administrator Therese McMillan Joins Local Officials For Dedication of Forden Station in Wilmington, NC



4/18/2011

**Contact: Paul Griffo
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WILMINGTON, NC ♦ Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Deputy Administrator Therese McMillan today joined with Wilmington, North Carolina officials to celebrate the grand opening of Wave Transit's new Forden station. The FTA provided 70 percent of the funding for the \$5.3 million project, including \$600,000 in Recovery Act funds.

♦The addition of the new Forden station is good news for commuters in Wilmington coping with \$4-a-gallon gas, ♦ said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. ♦Even more residents will now have access to a cleaner, more comfortable and more affordable way to get to work, school, or other destinations around the city. Public transit is about choice, and I ♦m proud that our partnership with the city of Wilmington is helping to provide expanded opportunities for area residents. ♦

The 9,000 square-foot indoor transfer facility, named after former Wilmington Transit Authority Chair and civil rights leader Harry Forden, is located on Cando Street at the center of Wave Transit's service area. The new facility, which replaces the transit agency's longtime headquarters on Castle Street, will serve approximately 1.5 million riders a year.

♦North Carolina continues to realize the benefits of the Recovery Act, ♦ McMillan said. ♦ ♦This facility in this location is exactly what smart urban planning is all about. It ♦s about offering good public transportation choices that go hand-in-hand with revitalizing the local economy, creating jobs, and bringing new economic opportunity into the downtown area. ♦

The building, which is designed to meet Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification, also houses offices for the administrative staff. It will also provide Wilmington transit riders with real-time information on bus arrivals and departures. It will feature energy-saving geothermal heating and cooling units and LED lighting. ♦

###

U.S. Transit Official Marks Earth Day by Awarding \$39 Million For Green Transit Center in Worcester, MA



4/21/2011

**Contact: Paul Griffo
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Facility replaces WRTA's trolley barn, will reclaim a Brownfield industrial site

WORCESTER, MA Deputy Federal Transit Administrator Therese McMillan today marked Earth Day by awarding \$39 million to Worcester, Massachusetts for the construction of the Worcester Regional Transit Authority's (WRTA) new state-of-the-art, environmentally friendly maintenance and operations center to be built on a former manufactured gas production site.

Together, the Department of Transportation and the WRTA are transforming this area into a gleaming transit center that will save energy and facilitate clean transportation alternatives for generations to come, said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood.

WRTA will build the new 260,000 square-foot facility using innovations in green technology and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) design principles, including the use of building materials with zero maintenance, lighting from natural sources, oil water separators and water recycling. The new building will replace WRTA's current facility, a 77-year-old trolley barn located on Grove Street that was converted to maintain and operate buses in the 1940s when the trolleys were phased out.

This project is a fitting reminder of what Earth Day is all about, said Deputy Federal Transit Administrator Therese McMillan. WRTA is replacing a dilapidated and inefficient facility built more than three-quarters of a century ago with a clean, green, energy efficient center. This investment not only redevelops the site, but it helps to redevelop the community and provides a safer, more comfortable place for WRTA's hard working staff.

Set to be built on twelve acres, the transit center will include room for at least 50 vehicles, an operations center, parking for workers, and fueling facilities. The new maintenance facility is also expected to result in lower operating costs due to its close location to the bus hub at Union Station.

Once the trolley barn site is empty, WRTA plans to sell the property and use the proceeds to enhance the passenger facilities at Union Station. The Bus Hub, a new addition to the Union Station transportation campus, is scheduled to break ground late this year.

WRTA's fleet of 48 buses, including four clean diesel-electric hybrid buses, serves 23 fixed routes in Worcester and 10 of the surrounding communities. The operations and maintenance facility was among 152 projects selected in October 2010 to share \$776 million in FTA state-of-good repair funds.

###

Federal Transit Administration Signs \$474 Million Funding Agreement to Help Build Central Corridor Light Rail Line



Largest Public Works Project in Minnesota History Will Connect Commuters with Affordable Transportation

4/26/2011

**Contact: Paul Griffo
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Minnesotans will soon have the option of taking light rail transit along the 11-mile Central Corridor that links the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, one of the most heavily traveled corridors in the region, thanks to a \$474 million funding agreement between the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Metropolitan Council.

◆With gas prices at record levels, President Obama has put forward a comprehensive plan to protect families and businesses from the ups and downs of energy costs,◆ said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood.◆
◆Our investments in this critical transit link between the Twin Cities will cut travel costs for consumers, and help create a cleaner, greener way to get from one place to another.◆

Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff was joined by Metropolitan Council officials and local leaders this morning to take part in a ceremony to sign the ◆full funding grant agreement,◆ which gives project sponsors the assurance that the federal government will appropriate a portion of its share each year until 2015, when the \$957 million project will be fully funded.

"The Obama Administration is thrilled to partner with the people of Minnesota to build the largest public works project in the state's history," Administrator Rogoff said. "This project truly embodies the President's vision for winning the future through infrastructure investment. It will create thousands of construction jobs now while paving the way for many thousands of jobs that will come to the Twin Cities through the economic development successes surrounding the new rail line. "

The 11-mile Central Corridor light rail line, which includes 18 new stations, 31 new rail cars and a new vehicle maintenance facility in St. Paul, is scheduled to open in 2014. Trains will run every 7 ◆ minutes during weekday peak periods. By the year 2030, it is expected that the line will

carry more than 40,000 passengers on weekdays, generating 6,000 new transit trips a day.

In addition to serving the downtown areas of the Twin Cities, the Central Corridor line will provide improved access to the University of Minnesota, the Midway area, the State Capitol complex, major event venues including Target Field and the Metrodome, and many neighborhoods in between.📍

###

Federal Transit Administrator Rogoff Opens Second Meeting of Rail Transit Oversight Group



4/28/2011

**Contact: Ketrina Nelson
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Two-Day Meeting Focuses on Transit Safety Planning and Highlights Lack of Federal Safety Authority

Washington, DC ♦ The second meeting of the Transit Rail Advisory Committee for Safety (TRACS) focused on the best models for state safety oversight partnerships and effective safety planning by local transit agencies. ♦

Secretary LaHood created the group in 2009 after a series of accidents in Chicago, Washington, D.C., San Francisco and Boston raised widespread concern regarding the safety of rail transit passengers and employees.

♦ Safety is our highest priority and we are committed to keeping transit one of the safest modes of transportation in the nation, ♦ said Secretary LaHood. ♦ ♦ The work of TRACS will be invaluable to FTA ♦'s ability to establish and enforce safety standards when Congress approves the Public Transportation Safety Program Act. ♦

TRACS was chartered by Secretary LaHood to guide the Federal Transit Administration safety rulemakings when the Obama Administration ♦'s Public Transportation Safety Program Act becomes law. ♦ That legislation would authorize the Department of Transportation to establish federal safety standards for rail transit systems. ♦ FTA currently lacks the statutory authority to oversee transit agency safety programs and promulgate safety regulations and standards as a general matter. ♦ During the 111th Congress, the Senate Banking Committee reported a bipartisan version of the Administration's proposal by a unanimous vote in July 2010. ♦

In the second meeting, the group focused on two reports drafted by its members. The first report identifies the best model for state safety oversight partnership and the second makes recommendations for local transit agencies on developing effective safety planning.

"This effort is solely about the safety of the transit employees and riders who comprise the ten billion passenger rides provided each year by public transportation across the country, ♦ said FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff,

who opened the two-day meeting. ♦ For the well being of those riders and workers, Congress needs to rescind an antiquated 1960s era law that forbids the federal government from issuing even the most basic safety regulations. TRACS is a critically important tool that will ensure that the FTA does this job smartly and efficiently once Congress acts. ♦

TRACS members were selected based on their expertise in the field of safety, transit operations or maintenance, representation of stakeholder interests that would be affected by transit safety requirements, policy experience, leadership, organizational skills and region.

The meeting took place April 27 and 28.

###

FTA Administrator Rogoff Announces \$3.98 Million to Restore Historic Wayne Junction Intermodal Facility



4/28/2011

**Contact: Paul Griffo
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Project Will Renew Historic Integrity While Linking Commuters to Affordable Transportation

Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff joined Congressman Chaka Fattah and local officials in Philadelphia this morning in announcing a \$3.98 million federal grant to the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) for the renovation of the Wayne Junction Intermodal Facility.

"With gas prices reaching above four dollars per gallon in some areas, President Obama is committed to providing transit opportunities that help people avoid pain at the pump," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. ♦ "The administration's investment in Wayne Junction will also do a better job connecting residents with jobs and economic opportunities throughout the region. ♦

Constructed at the turn of the 20th Century, the Wayne Junction Intermodal Facility, located in the historic Germantown/Nicetown community, has played a vital role in the development of the local community. ♦ The facility is now considered a major transit hub, connecting five regional rail lines, one trackless trolley route and two bus routes.

♦ As high gas prices take a bite out of family budgets, the Obama Administration will continue to work with communities to make sure commuters have affordable, convenient ways to get to work, school or the grocery store, ♦ said Administrator Rogoff. ♦ ♦ That ♦ s why we ♦ re so pleased to partner with SEPTA to transform Wayne Junction into a state-of-the-art, energy-efficient, accessible transit facility. ♦

The \$3.98 million grant will go toward a \$32 million project that includes power, signal and track upgrades, new elevators and required accommodations for persons with disabilities. ♦ It will also provide for construction and repair of platforms, tunnel and stairway restoration, improvements to various passenger amenities and improved technology and painting.

Today's grant brings the total amount of monies the FTA has provided for the project to \$7.4 million.

###

Federal Transit Administration Awards \$6.7 Million To Build Montañito Intermodal Center in Albuquerque, NM



5/17/2011

**Contact: Paul Griffo
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Facility Will Provide New Strategic Bus, Rail Connections Offering Safe, Reliable Way for Commuters to Combat Record Gas Prices

ALBUQUERQUE, NM ♦ The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration today announced a \$6.7 million grant for construction of a new Montañito Intermodal Center that will connect Albuquerque residents to commuter rail service and enhanced priority bus service, and provide relief from high gasoline prices. ♦

♦ With gasoline prices at the levels they are today, the Obama Administration is committed to providing Americans with energy efficient transportation alternatives, ♦ said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. ♦ ♦ The new Montañito Intermodal Center will provide Albuquerque with greater access to affordable transportation options and create opportunities for economic development. ♦

FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff today joined Congressman Martin Heinrich and Albuquerque Mayor Richard Berry at a ceremony to award the \$6.7 million grant to build the Center. Located in the heart of Albuquerque, the Montañito Intermodal Center will be an integral piece to the regional transportation network, linking ABQ Ride buses and New Mexico Rail Runner Express commuter rail, as well as a catalyst for redevelopment in the area.

♦ With near-record gas prices once again, this new facility will soon provide a strategic link between bus and commuter rail that allows residents to take a pass at the pump and put more of their hard-earned paychecks back in their pockets, ♦ Administrator Rogoff said. ♦ ♦ The Obama Administration is helping to move Albuquerque and its residents forward, and creating jobs at a time when they're needed most. ♦

The four-acre center is strategically located on Montañito Road, a major connector that crosses the Rio Grande and is one of only a few streets that spans the entire city from east to west.

Flanked by a 300-space parking lot, the pueblo-revival style building will offer transit riders real-time rider information, electronic information kiosks, bike racks and lockers, and free wi-fi service, as well as video camera surveillance to keep riders safe.

During a time of high energy costs, residents will enjoy the cost-saving measures of the many ♦green♦ features proposed in the design, including LED lighting, solar panels, and rainwater capture design elements.♦♦

###

Secretary LaHood Announces Availability of \$7.6 Billion for Transit; Money Will Pay for Operations, Maintenance, and Construction, While Giving Commuters More Options



5/20/2011

**Contact: Paul Griffo
(202) 366-4064**

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced the availability of \$7.6 billion in annual funding for states, local communities and transit agencies nationwide to help maintain bus and transit rail operations and provide for capital construction and maintenance projects. With high gasoline prices taking a bite out of consumers' wallets, this money will also provide people with options for getting around.

“The Obama Administration is connecting people with the places they need to go and providing them with energy efficient alternatives,” said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. “These critical dollars will help smaller cities and rural communities that rely heavily on federal investments to keep their transit systems running.”

The funds were announced today in the Federal Transit Administration's annual apportionment notice. Each year the FTA publishes one or more apportionment notices that show how the Congressional dollars for transit is distributed among urbanized and non-urbanized areas throughout the country.

“By providing the critical support that our public transportation systems need, we can offer Americans real, efficient transit choices rather than being held captive by the unpredictable price at the pump,” said FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff. “We're committed to providing the resources our communities need to deliver affordable, safe, and reliable transportation options that will also help families keep more of their hard-earned cash.”

Transit providers, including state and local governments and transit agencies, apply for these annual funds in the form of federal grants for infrastructure projects, such as the construction or repair of transit buildings including bus and rail stations and track repair or the purchase, rebuilding or refurbishing of transit vehicles.

[The entire apportionment notice can be found here \(PDF\).](#)

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Encourages American Production of Steel Rails for Streetcars



6/6/2011

**Contact: Paul Griffo
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Deputy Secretary Porcari and FTA Administrator Rogoff Meet With Steel, Transportation and Manufacturing Leaders to Promote Domestic Rail Production

The U.S. Department of Transportation today hosted a roundtable discussion in Washington with transportation, manufacturing and steel industry leaders to discuss a plan for producing steel streetcar rails in the United States.

The Obama Administration is committed to putting Americans back to work making the products our nation needs to compete, said Secretary Ray LaHood. We want U.S. manufacturers to supply the rails for U.S. streetcars and today's meeting was a first step toward making this a reality.

Deputy Secretary John Porcari, who led the meeting, said he hopes that today's meeting will help determine the potential market size for steel rails and the level of interest among manufacturers, as well as identify obstacles that need to be addressed.

"The Federal Transit Administration is making major investments in streetcars as they've made a real comeback in many cities," Administrator Rogoff said. "It only makes sense that the rail they ride on is stamped 'Made in the U.S.A.,' because with the ingenuity of the American workforce and industry, we can do it right here at home."

Industry experts estimate that 18,000 metric tons of steel girder rail will be needed over the next three years to meet the demand of streetcar projects being planned and built in the U.S. That amount is expected to expand to upwards of 33,000 metric tons over the coming decade.

Deputy Secretary Porcari called the meeting following a survey by the FTA and the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology Manufacturing Extension Partnership that indicated interest among domestic steelwork foundries in manufacturing streetcar rails.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Breaks Ground On New Orleans Streetcar Project



Secretary LaHood Also Announces \$400,000 Streetcar Workforce Development Grant

6/7/2011

**Contact: Paul Griffo
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NEW ORLEANS ♦ U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today joined Mayor Mitch Landrieu and other New Orleans officials to break ground on the Union Passenger Terminal/Loyola Avenue Streetcar project, which received \$45 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act ♦s TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) program last year. ♦ The new streetcar extension is expected to begin service in June 2012.

♦ The New Orleans Streetcar project will create new jobs, economic opportunities and greater transit choices, ♦ Secretary LaHood said. ♦ Not only will it stimulate development along Loyola Avenue, but it will also provide residents greater access to the central business district. ♦

The new streetcar extension will run through New Orleans ♦ central business district along Loyola Avenue from the Union Passenger Terminal to Canal Street. The Union Passenger Terminal is a major southern hub for Amtrak, with three trains serving the station. The Loyola Avenue corridor is home to significant commercial and business activity, including the city ♦s energy, government, healthcare, and financial sectors, as well as many attractions and entertainment.

In addition to breaking ground on the streetcar project, Secretary LaHood said that the New Orleans Regional Transit Authority (RTA) will receive a \$400,000 grant from the Federal Transit Administration to establish a streetcar maintenance training program to assist in hiring and training skilled streetcar maintenance workers.

♦ Hiring and training the next generation of streetcar workers is critical because these are the people who are going to keep the RTA extension running efficiently and safely day in and day out, ♦ said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff. ♦ These grant awards serve as a shot in the arm for the local economy still in recovery from Hurricane Katrina and hard hit by recent flooding. ♦

RTA also wants to ensure that unemployed and underemployed residents have access to job opportunities created by the TIGER grant, and will be working with Delgado Community College to facilitate their training efforts, as well as drawing potential employees from the regional one-stop career center in New Orleans.

RTA's new training program is one of a dozen programs supported by FTA's "Innovative Workforce Development" grants offering support for efforts that improve the state of the practice in workforce development and help address the needs of human capital in the transit industry.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces Funding for Creating New Jobs and Training the Next Generation of Transit Workforce



FTA Providing \$3 Million for 'Innovative Workforce Development' Program

6/9/2011

**Contact: Paul Griffo
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WASHINGTON ♦ U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced \$3 million from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to support programs around the country that train, hire, develop and retain transit workers.

♦ President Obama promised to help create good jobs for Americans, ♦ said Secretary LaHood. ♦ ♦ This money will help train young people just out of high school or college and help those already in transit jobs move ahead. ♦

Funding will be provided to programs in New Orleans and Denver that train new entrants to the workforce for jobs in the transit industry; vocational programs in Massachusetts and New Jersey that prepare high school and college students for careers in transit; leadership training programs in California, New York, Pennsylvania; and Ohio transit agencies, and a distance learning center in South Dakota targeted at rural transit agencies.

Twelve programs from across the nation successfully competed for the "Innovative Workforce Development" dollars. ♦ FTA received 35 applications requesting a total of \$7.3 million in requests for the \$3 million available. [A complete list of successful proposals can be found here.](#)

At a June 7 groundbreaking on New Orleans ♦ Union Passenger Terminal/Loyola Avenue Streetcar project, Secretary LaHood announced that the New Orleans Regional Transit Authority was among the recipients and will receive a \$400,000 Innovative Workforce Development grant to establish a streetcar maintenance training program to assist in hiring and training skilled streetcar maintenance workers.

♦ With our transit systems growing in ridership and complexity, we must begin recruiting and training the skilled workforce to match the challenges of expansion and innovation, ♦ said FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff. ♦ ♦ We must prepare for retirements and build a knowledgeable workforce that will

ensure that our systems are safe, reliable, and desirable long into the future.◆

Successful proposals represented a broad portfolio of innovative efforts from training the underemployed in streetcar maintenance and repair to offering college students a certificate in transit management and operations.

###

Hampton Roads Transit Opens New ♦Green♦ Bus Maintenance Facility Built with \$14 Million in Recovery Act Funds



FTA Administrator Rogoff Cuts Ribbon on Modern Facility that Replaces Dilapidated Trolley Barns Built In Early 1900s

6/9/2011

**Contact: Paul Griffo
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NORFOLK, Va. ♦ Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff today joined Hampton Roads Transit officials in opening a new, energy efficient bus maintenance facility in Norfolk, Virginia. ♦ The modern facility embraces innovative new technology and was built, in part, with \$14 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds provided in 2010.

The building has many environmentally-friendly features, such as motion-sensor controlled lighting and a 50,000-gallon rainwater harvesting tank for bus wash operations. ♦

♦The Hampton Roads bus facility is the kind of investment that will help us achieve President Obama's goal of reducing the nation's dependence on oil, ♦ said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. ♦We have not only provided a safer, cleaner and healthier facility for workers, we've helped construct a building that is more energy efficient and good for the environment. ♦

♦Thanks to the Recovery Act, Hampton Roads Transit employees will no longer have to endure the sweltering heat of another summer, a leaky roof, or the frustration of failing and antiquated equipment, ♦ said Administrator Rogoff. ♦These investments are improving the lives of America's workers and making transit a more reliable and affordable alternative to buying high-priced gas at the pump."

The 95,000 square-foot Southside facility will house dispatching operations, a garage, bus wash, fueling station and a body and paint shop. ♦♦ The new ♦green♦ facility replaces dilapidated trolley barns that had been built in the early 1900s and later converted to a bus garage. Workers in the old facility had to contend with aging equipment and bays that were too narrow to accommodate modern buses, not to mention an inadequate heating and cooling system and the building's general state of disrepair. The new facility also includes covered parking for 200 buses.

Hampton Roads Transit used \$14 million of a \$24.5 million Recovery Act grant in building the \$57 million facility. The transit agency used the remainder of the Recovery Act money for buses and new equipment. The Federal Transit Administration provided an additional \$4.7 million in discretionary funds for the facility through other transit assistance programs.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Encourages Nation To Try Transit for a Day on National ♦Dump the Pump♦ Day



By taking transit, family of three saves enough to cover annual food budget

6/15/2011

**Contact: Paul Griffo
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U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood and Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff today encouraged Americans to leave their cars at home and try transit on national Dump the Pump Day, Thursday, June 16.

June 16 marks the American Public Transportation Association's (APTA) sixth annual National Dump the Pump Day. ♦ The purpose is to highlight public transportation as an effective alternative to driving that will help people save money, especially with the unpredictable costs of gas.

"The Obama Administration is committed to reducing our nation's dependence on foreign oil and using public transit can help get us there," ♦♦ Secretary LaHood said. ♦ "I hope that the drivers who 'Dump the Pump' for a day will discover an economical, comfortable, stress-free option for getting around that they hadn't considered before."

According to APTA's most recent Transit Saving Report, a two-person family could save, on the average, more than \$10,000 a year by downsizing to one car.

"Where it's available, transit is the most efficient way to save fuel, improve the environment and keep money in your pocket," said Administrator Rogoff. ♦ "We're asking Americans to explore their transportation options tomorrow and to take a day off from feeling that burdensome pain of sky-high prices at the pump."

Merrie Dodson, a Washington, DC resident who regularly rides the bus with her 2♦-year-old son, estimates that her family of three saves enough by taking transit to cover their annual food budget. An added benefit, she says, is the quality time she is able to spend with her son while they ride.

Recent research shows that public transportation use in the United States reduces our nation's carbon emissions by 37 million metric tons annually. This is equivalent to the emissions resulting from the electricity generated

for the use of 4.9 million households or every household in Washington, DC; New York City; Atlanta; Denver; and Los Angeles combined.

###

Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces up to \$175 Million in ◆Livability◆ Grants to Increase and Improve Transportation Options for Urban, Suburban and Rural Communities



*Announcement Made on Second Anniversary of 'Sustainable Communities'
Partnership*

6/16/2011

**Contact: Paul Griffo
(202) 366-4064**

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced the availability of up to \$175 million in livability grants to help urban, suburban and rural communities develop transit options to better connect people to where they live, work and play.◆ Local transit agencies will be able to compete for livability dollars from the pool of up to \$175 million. The competitive grant program will begin accepting applications when announced in the Federal Register during the week of June 20.

The announcement comes on the second anniversary of the creation of the federal Partnership for Sustainable Communities.◆ Livability grants are aimed at assuring that transportation and housing decisions are made jointly and recognize the unique character of each community.◆

◆Coordinated transportation and housing planning can make the best use of scarce federal dollars and can help create jobs, lower transportation costs and reduce our dependence on oil,◆ said Secretary LaHood.◆

◆Communities where people have access to affordable housing and different forms of transportation to get to places that are important to them are communities where people want to live.◆

The Partnership for Sustainable Communities is a collaborative effort among the Departments of Transportation, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Environmental Protection Agency to help American families gain better access to affordable housing, better transportation options and lower transportation costs. The three departments created the high-level interagency partnership to better coordinate federal transportation, environmental protection, and housing investments.

◆In addition to the need for affordable housing, the Obama Administration recognizes the necessity for safe, convenient and affordable transportation,◆ said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff. ◆We◆re

helping to better connect communities and create reliable transit choices so that people can make it home from work in time to sit down to dinner with their families or help their kids with homework. ♦ That means a higher quality of life for all Americans and a more efficient and more usable transportation network for moving people and goods. ♦

Up to \$150 million of the livability funding being announced comes from the **Bus and Bus Facilities Program**, which provides money to purchase or replace buses and to build bus-related facilities. The remaining funds come from the **Alternatives Analysis Program**, which provides money to help communities evaluate and select the best transit options to meet their transportation needs. The money can be spent on a broad range of projects within those two categories.

FTA's **Alternatives Analysis** grant program is the first key milestone in obtaining federal investments in new capital transit projects. The alternatives analysis is complete once a locally preferred alternative is selected and adopted as part of the affected region's long-range transportation plan.

###

Secretary Ray LaHood Announces \$10.5 Million Available for Cleveland's University Circle Rapid Transit Station; Project Competitively Funded Under TIGER II



Station Among 75 Projects Nationwide Sharing \$600 Million

6/21/2011

**Contact: Paul Griffo
(202) 366-4064**

WASHINGTON, DC ♦ The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today announced that the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority can begin work on the University Circle Rapid Transit Station, which was awarded \$10.5 million from the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) II Program in October 2010.

The project will involve reconstructing the station, clearing the way for work to begin on one of the busiest transfer points in the transit system. ♦ A key element of reconstruction is consolidating the bus and transfer area and the rail station, which are currently separated by the busy Cedar Glen Parkway.

♦ This project makes riding transit more convenient, safe, and accessible to persons with disabilities, ♦ LaHood said. ♦ We want to help bring Cleveland's transit system into a state of good repair and this was one need that could not be delayed any longer. ♦

When the station is rebuilt, it will be enhanced by a new plaza, widened bikeways and walkways, and a new 2,500-square-foot indoor waiting area. Located within the Rockefeller and Ambler Parks, the station was designed with its park setting in mind, with the front glass wall providing an open, inviting feeling from the parks to the train platforms. The station, which serves about 2,500 riders daily and provides access to seven bus lines and the RTA Red Line, is near Case Western Reserve University, John Hay High School and the School of the Arts, Little Italy, Fairfax, University Hospitals, and student and senior housing.

♦ The University Circle Station is going to be a more attractive option for commuters who would prefer to save money on gas and leave their cars at home, ♦ said Rogoff. ♦ ♦ Our nation needs to reduce its dependence on oil and revitalized and renovated stations like this one will better serve current riders while encouraging new ones. ♦

GCRTA plans to break ground on the project later this year, and construction is expected to last two years, during which time the station and bus terminal will remain open. The University Circle Rapid Transit Station Project was among 75 projects in 40 states that shared \$600 million from the Department's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) II Program. The Department received nearly 1,000 construction grant applications for more than \$19 billion from all 50 states, U.S. territories and the District of Columbia. TIGER II grants were awarded to projects that have a significant impact on the nation, a region or metropolitan area.

The projects chosen demonstrate their ability to contribute to the long-term economic competitiveness of the nation, improve the condition of existing transportation facilities and systems, increase energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improve the safety of U.S. transportation facilities or enhance the quality of living and working environments of communities through increased transportation choices and connections. The Department also gave priority to projects that are expected to create and preserve jobs quickly and stimulate rapid increases in economic activity.

###

\$1.58 Billion for 27 Major Transit Projects Across America



U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces \$1.58 Billion for 27 Major Transit Projects Across America

6/27/2011

**Contact: Paul Griffo
(202) 366-4064**

FTA 33-11

WASHINGTON ♦ U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced \$1.58 billion for 27 transit projects nationwide that will improve public transportation access for millions of Americans while reducing our dependence on foreign oil and curbing air pollution.

"Investing in a modern transportation network is a key part of President Obama's strategy to win the future by out-building and out-competing the rest of the world," Secretary LaHood said. "America's long-term economic success requires investing now in transportation infrastructure capable of moving people and goods more safely, efficiently and quickly than ever before."

"Our investments in expanding America's transit networks will not only improve reliable transportation access for communities across the country, they will support construction jobs and economic development," said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff. ♦ "And, a more efficient and reliable transit network means new opportunities for Americans to keep more of their paychecks in their wallets and spend less at the gas pump."

Twenty-seven transit projects across America are on a path to receive funding under the New Starts program, through which Federal Transit Administration (FTA) provides federal support for major capital construction projects such as subways, light rail, streetcars, and bus rapid transit. These projects include:

- The New Britain-Hartford Busway will provide commuters traveling between New Britain and Hartford a more efficient and cost-effective alternative to the current daily commute on Interstate 84, the region's most congested highway. The dedicated busway will provide the area's relatively large transit-dependent population better access to the 81,000 jobs along the route and across the busway's 11 stations, promote redevelopment opportunities along the 9.4-mile corridor, and

provide faster transit access to major activity centers throughout the area. The FTA anticipates an overall federal commitment of \$275.3 million to the \$572.7 million project.

- Denver's 13-station Eagle Commuter Rail project, which will add more than 30 miles of service to Denver's transit system connecting downtown Denver and Denver International Airport to the east with numerous communities in between. Ultimately, the FTA projects contributing approximately \$1 billion towards the \$2 billion project, which is expected to create 5,400 jobs during peak construction. This is one component of FasTracks, a multi-billion dollar, multi-year transit-expansion program that will help Denver support smart, sustainable growth, create jobs, and compete for business for decades to come.
- The Rapid C Bus Rapid Transit Line will help to relieve traffic congestion in West Seattle, Washington, improve access to downtown Seattle's 150,000 jobs, and connect the popular Washington State Ferries serving Vashon Island and Southworth among other spots along the corridor. Nearly \$21.3 million in discretionary 2011 funds has been budgeted for construction of the \$28.4 million project. The C Line, which should be fully operational by the fall of 2012, is expected to create approximately 180 construction, manufacturing, and transportation jobs during the peak construction period.
- The Central Corridor light rail project will connect Minnesota's two largest cities♦Minneapolis and Saint Paul♦by light rail for the first time. The FTA recently signed a Full Funding Grant Agreement making a long-term financial commitment to the \$957 million light rail line, which will carry 40,000 riders along this busy 11-mile corridor. The project, which includes 18 new stations and 31 new rail cars, is scheduled to open in 2014. In addition to serving the downtown areas of the Twin Cities, the Central Corridor line will provide more efficient access to the University of Minnesota, the Midway area, the State Capitol complex, Target Field and the Metrodome, and many neighborhoods in between.
- The Austin MetroRapid is a 37.5-mile, 40-stop, bus rapid transit (BRT) system.♦The FTA is supporting the local vision with a \$24.2 million investment in 2011 towards the nearly \$50 million project. The project, which is scheduled to open in the summer of 2013, is the first phase of Capitol Metropolitan Transit Authority's comprehensive and forward-leaning All Systems Go ten-corridor long-range transit plan.

View a♦[complete list](#) of the 27 projects receiving New Starts funding allocations for 2011.

###

Secretary LaHood Announces \$101.4 Million to Promote Innovative Clean-Fuel Technologies in Transit



Transit Providers Around the U.S. Can Compete For Funds By Proposing Environmentally Sustainable Transit Projects

6/29/2011

**Contact: Paul Griffo
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WASHINGTON ♦ U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced that transit providers will be able to compete for a share of \$101.4 million in federal funding by proposing innovative projects that create 'green' jobs, promote the use of clean fuels and cut our nation's dependence on oil.

"This money supports President Obama's plan to improve the environment and secure America's energy future," said Secretary LaHood. "These investments will improve public transportation access for millions of Americans--all while reducing our dependence on oil, curbing air pollution, and easing pain at the gas pump."

The money is being provided competitively through the Federal Transit Administration's Fiscal Year 2011 Sustainability Initiative, which includes funding from two programs: \$51.5 million from FTA's Clean Fuels Grant Program and \$49.9 million from FTA's Transit Investment in Greenhouse Gas and Energy Reduction (TIGGER) III Program.

"With high gasoline prices hitting families hard, investments in transit are more important than ever," said FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff. "By giving Americans more transportation choices, we're providing a win for their pocketbooks and for the environment."

Clean Fuels grant recipients will be chosen through a competitive selection process based on their ability to help communities achieve or maintain the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone and carbon monoxide, while supporting emerging clean fuel and advanced propulsion technologies for transit buses.

TIGGER III grants, which will also use a competitive selection process, will be awarded based on a project's ability to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions and provide a return on the investment.

Last year's 63 winning projects involved an array of environmental innovations, such as installing energy-efficient technologies at transit facilities, replacing traditional diesel-powered buses with low- or zero-emission vehicles, and building compressed natural gas fueling stations. Last year's [winning proposals](#), chosen from among 274 applications from across the U.S.

In addition to announcing competitive funds available through the Sustainability Initiative, the FTA today also issued similar notices for two additional competitive programs: the \$750 million State of Good Repair Initiative, which targets U.S. transit agencies' maintenance and repair backlogs, and the \$175 million Livability Expansion Initiative, which will fund investments that support the DOT-HUD-EPA Partnership for Sustainable Communities.

All FTA FY 2011 Discretionary Funding [Programs](#).

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces \$3.4 Million To Renew Aging Paratransit Fleet in Toledo



7/5/2011

**Contact: Paul Griffo
(202) 366-4064**

TOLEDO, Ohio ♦ U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced that Toledo is receiving a \$3.4 million grant to replace 43 small buses that provide service to people with disabilities with more fuel-efficient vehicles. ♦ The grant will also help provide ♦ call-a-ride ♦ service in suburban areas.

♦ The Obama Administration is committed to providing better transportation options for all Americans and reducing our dependence on fossil fuels, ♦ said Secretary LaHood. ♦ A clean, efficient transit system is especially important for people with disabilities and older Americans who depend on transit. ♦

The new more fuel-efficient vehicles will replace most of the Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority ♦s (TARTA ♦s) aging paratransit fleet. Thirty-eight of the new vehicles will provide service to persons with disabilities who cannot access Toledo ♦s regular city bus service, and five more buses will serve customers in the suburbs who use call-a-ride service, including seniors, students and other non-drivers. ♦

♦ Getting around town is a challenge when you can ♦t drive ♦ but it makes matters worse to have to ride in vehicles that aren ♦t reliable, ♦ said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff, who was in Toledo today to award the grant. ♦ Now the people of Toledo will have a cleaner and safer alternative to go see a Mud Hens game, to see a concert at Huntington Center, or to attend class at one of the area ♦s many universities. ♦

The \$3.4 million grant is from the Federal Transit Administration ♦s (FTA) \$776 million State of Good Repair Initiative, which is funded from formula and Bus Program account and was developed to shore up repair and maintenance backlogs that FTA identified within the nation's transit systems. Today ♦s grant announcement means that TARTA has met all the federal grant requirements and is now eligible to use the funds.

The new vehicles can accommodate 10 to 12 passengers with room for up to four wheelchairs. Many of the vehicles being used by TARTA for these services were often taken out of service for maintenance and repairs

because they were well beyond their useful life, some not having been replaced in more than 20 years. TARTA, which provided 3.3 million rides last year, has 122 regular fixed route buses and 56 paratransit vehicles. Because of high gas prices, the agency has seen a steady increase in ridership.

The FTA recently announced that it is making \$750 million in State of Good Repair funds available from the formula and Bus Program in 2011.

###

FTA Administrator Rogoff Tours Greater-Philadelphia Region Transit System



7/11/2011

**Contact: Paul Griffo
(202) 366-4064**



PHILADELPHIA

Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff, Senator Robert P. Casey Jr., Representatives Chaka Fattah and Jim Gerlach, Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter, and Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority's (SEPTA) General Manager Joe Casey today reviewed several SEPTA facilities that are in significant need of infrastructure improvements.

"Addressing the significant maintenance and repair needs of our nation's aging bus and rail systems is a high priority for the Obama Administration and critical to providing reliable and efficient transit services that millions of Americans depend on daily," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood.

The group toured transit stations, electric substations, and rail bridges that highlight the need for federal funds to bring the nation's transit systems into a state of good repair. These facilities included:

- City Hall Station in Philadelphia, opened in 1928, which has had no major renovations and is currently experiencing tunnel leaks, deteriorating ceilings, crumbling platforms and accessibility issues;

- A power substation at Jenkintown that has been operating with outdated circuits and electrical equipment from the 1930s; and
- A bridge on the Norristown High Speed Line that is over 100 years old and has extensive corrosion of steel components.

"SEPTA's aging infrastructure is one example of a larger national challenge that exists at our older, larger transit systems like Boston, Cleveland, New York, Chicago, and San Francisco," Rogoff said. "When commuters get on a bus or train to get to work, they expect that the trains are reliable, the overpasses are sound, and the buses are maintained, which is why we must continue to tackle this backlog."

In April, the Department of Transportation announced a \$3.98 million grant to SEPTA for the renovation of its Wayne Junction Intermodal Facility. The sixth largest metropolitan transit authority in the nation, SEPTA has been in operation from the early 1960s and serves nearly four million people in and around Philadelphia. ♦ This project was selected through the \$775 million Fiscal Year 2010 State of Good Repair Grant Program funded from the Formula and Bus Grant appropriation.

The Department announced in June that it is making available an additional \$750 million to transit agencies across the country for infrastructure improvements through its Fiscal Year 2011 State of Good Repair initiative. The program is designed to help transit providers deliver safer, more reliable rides, operate more efficiently and lower fuel costs.

According to the National State of Good Repair Assessment Study ♦ released in June 2010, the estimated cost of bringing the nation's rail and bus transit systems into a state of good repair is close to \$78 billion. The report drew on data from 43 of the nation's rail and bus operators in both rural and urban areas.

Read article about Peter's SOGR tour in Philly here: ♦♦ http://www.philly.com/philly/news/breaking/20110711_An_up-close_view_of_SEPTA.html?viewAll=y

###

Secretary LaHood Announces \$47.6 Million Now Available for Atlanta Streetcar



Streetcar Among 75 Projects Nationwide Sharing \$600 Million

7/13/2011

**Contact: Paul Griffo
(202) 366-4064**

ATLANTA ♦ The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today announced that work can begin on the Atlanta Streetcar project, which was awarded \$47.6 million from the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) II Program in October 2010.

"This streetcar project will give people the option to leave the car at home and get to where they need to go in downtown Atlanta," U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said. "In addition to providing safe, clean and affordable transportation options, this project will create jobs, reduce congestion downtown and connect university and hospital resources to public transit stations. ♦"

The electric streetcar will run 2.6 miles through the heart of Atlanta's business, tourism and convention corridor. Its planned 12 stops will provide access to residential, cultural, educational and historic centers, including the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site and the Georgia Aquarium.

♦In addition to the convenience this streetcar will provide to the millions of tourists and conventioners who visit Atlanta each year, it will be a lifeline for thousands of people who live near the new line, ♦ FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff said. ♦ Atlantans will be able to get to work, students will be able to get to the university and patients will be able to get medical care without having to spend a dime on gas. ♦

The streetcar will connect with the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) rail system at Peachtree Center, and with numerous ♦ area bus routes. Besides providing easy access to jobs and downtown attractions, the streetcar will spur new development in an economically distressed area. It will also reconnect the eastern and western sections of downtown, which have been separated since Interstate 75/85 was built in the 1950s. Also, the project is expected to create an estimated 930 jobs

during construction and more than 5,600 jobs over the next 20 years. Service is scheduled to begin in 2013.

The Atlanta Streetcar Project was among 75 projects in 40 states that shared \$600 million from the Department's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) II Program. The Department received nearly 1,000 construction grant applications for more than \$19 billion from all 50 states, U.S. territories and the District of Columbia. TIGER II grants were awarded to projects that have a significant impact on the nation, a region or metropolitan area.

The projects chosen demonstrate their ability to contribute to the long-term economic competitiveness of the nation, improve the condition of existing transportation facilities and systems, increase energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improve the safety of U.S. transportation facilities or enhance the quality of living and working environments of communities through increased transportation choices and connections. The Department also gave priority to projects that are expected to create and preserve jobs quickly and stimulate rapid increases in economic activity.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Signs \$178.6 Million Federal Partnership to Build First-Ever Commuter Rail Line in Central Florida



SunRail Commuter Project Estimated to Put Nearly 11,000 Americans in the Construction Trades to Work

7/18/2011

**Contact: Paul Griffo
(202) 366-4064**

ORLANDO, Fla. ♦ U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today signed the grant agreement that gives the green light for construction to begin on the Orlando SunRail project. ♦ He was joined at the kick-off by Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff, Florida Transportation Secretary Ananth Prasad, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman John Mica, Representative Corrine Brown, Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer, and other state and local officials.

The ceremony, which took place at the future site of the Florida Hospital Station, marks the largest federal transit investment in Central Florida and is expected to create an estimated 11,000 construction-related jobs at a time when they are needed most.

♦ Investing in a modern transportation network is part of President Obama's strategy to win the future by out-building and out-competing the rest of the world, ♦ Secretary LaHood said. ♦ We ♦ are bringing real transportation choices to greater Orlando, so more people can leave their cars at home, give their kids cleaner air to breathe and reduce our nation ♦ s dependence on oil. ♦

The Full Funding Grant Agreement commits \$178.6 million in funding from the Department ♦ s Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to the initial 32-mile segment of the SunRail commuter rail project. The funding amount, which represents roughly half of the project ♦ s \$357.2 million estimated total cost, will be paid out by the FTA through 2013.

♦ SunRail will give hundreds of thousands of Central Florida residents a viable transportation alternative, ♦ said Administrator Peter Rogoff. ♦ Not only will they be able to avoid congestion, they will be in an environment where they can get work done while commuting. ♦

In addition to providing easy access to Orlando central business district's 730,000 jobs, there are another approximately 79,000 jobs within walking distance of the line's 12 stations. In addition to the nearly 11,000 jobs created by engineering, design, construction, and operations, the Florida Department of Transportation estimates another 150,000 jobs as a result of business and economic development around the line.

The line will connect downtown Orlando to Orange, Seminole and Volusia Counties along existing railroad tracks, and in addition to having 12 new stations, it will consist of seven locomotives, 14 passenger rail cars, and parking for commuters. Stops along the line will include:

- Florida Hospital Station, serving one of the largest employers in Central Florida, and within walking distance of many cultural, entertainment, shopping and dining destinations.
- Central Station the hub of LYNX, Orlando's transit system providing easy transfers to city buses that serve greater Orlando and connecting with LYMMO, the city's free downtown bus rapid transit line. County and federal courthouses, the Amway Arena, and many of Orlando's business, shopping, entertainment and recreational venues are all within easy walking distance.
- Orlando Health/Amtrak Station, offering a connection with Amtrak service to New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, Virginia, North and South Carolina, and Georgia, as well as destinations within Florida and serving the Orlando Health Center, which is another of the region's largest employers. Surrounding medical facilities include Orlando Regional Medical Center, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Arnold Palmer Children's Hospital and Winnie Palmer Hospital for Women and Babies.

The line, which will also offer bus connection to Orlando International Airport, is considered the first phase of what is expected to be a 61-mile commuter rail line extending further north to Deland and further south to Osceola County.

###

LaHood Announces \$15 Million Available for Transportation Improvements on Rural Tribal Lands



Investments improve access to jobs, saves fuel, and promotes new business development

7/25/2011

**Contact: Paul Griffo
202-366-4064**

FTA 38-11

WASHINGTON◆ U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced the availability of \$15 million in federal funding that will enable rural American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments across the United States to invest in public transit options that provide convenient access to employment centers and promote new economic development on tribal lands.

"The Obama administration is committed to improving tribal transportation resources," said Secretary LaHood.◆ "These dollars will do that and more by creating jobs and stimulating development of new tribal-owned businesses."

The money is provided under the Federal Transit Administration◆s (FTA) Tribal Transit Program, which provides grants to Indian tribes for capital transportation projects and operating expenses to meet the growing public transit needs of rural tribal communities.

"Public transportation gives those who live on tribal lands better access to jobs and health care, and provides an incentive for much-needed economic development," said FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff.◆ "Affordable transit choice in our most rural communities helps families live healthier lives and keeps more of their paychecks in their pockets rather than spending them at the gas pump."

Those eligible to compete for money under this program include federally recognized American Indian tribes and Alaska Native villages, groups, or communities, as identified by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in the Department of the Interior.◆

Federal tribal transit grants have enabled dozens of tribal communities and transit providers to purchase, modernize, and expand bus fleets, increase

service for seniors and people with disabilities and launch new bus, van, and commuter service in rural communities that had never been served by public transit before.

A notice published in today's [Federal Register](#) includes application procedures, criteria that FTA will use to select projects, and grant terms, conditions and reporting requirements. The deadline to submit project proposals is Sept. 26, 2011.

Interested tribal groups are encouraged to contact the nearest FTA Regional Office for additional information on the Tribal Transit Program. A list of FTA regional offices may be found at <http://www.fta.dot.gov/>.

###

LaHood Commits \$30 Million to Improve Access to Jobs and Community Services for Military Families



Cooperative federal initiative recognizes unique challenges facing veterans, military service members, and their families

7/28/2011

**Contact: Paul Griffo
(202) 366-4064**

WASHINGTON ♦ U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced the availability of \$30 million for a new Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative which will soon make it easier for servicemen and women, their families, veterans and people with disabilities to access transportation services in their communities.

♦ Our nation is tremendously grateful for the sacrifices America's armed forces and their families are making, ♦ said Secretary LaHood. ♦ ♦ This new initiative will help ensure that getting a ride to work, daycare or to a medical appointment is no longer an obstacle. ♦

[The Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative](#) ♦ will award competitive capital assistance grants from to local transportation providers and other groups around the country so they may better coordinate and deliver important information through ♦ one-call ♦ or ♦ one click ♦ centers.

This approach means that with just one phone call, or through a familiar website, military families can readily learn, for instance, about the availability of commuter van services that travel to employment centers, vehicles equipped with wheelchair lifts that can provide rides to a local rehab center or buses that stop by the local mall. Typically, such information is not available in one convenient place. Better coordination will also help transit operate more cost-effectively by eliminating redundant service and outreach.

♦ Military families and veterans must be able to take full advantage of the transportation resources in their communities, ♦ said Peter Rogoff, Administrator of the Federal Transit Administration. ♦ Every service member who returns home or relocates to a new community should have a reliable ride to earn a reliable paycheck. ♦

The initiative is being launched under the auspices of the federal Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility (CCAM), which is chaired by

Secretary LaHood. ♦ CCAM is a permanent partnership of federal departments working together to better coordinate federal programs on behalf of people with disabilities, the elderly and low-income individuals.

In addition to the Department of Transportation, which is contributing \$30 million from the Federal Transit Administration's Bus and Bus Facilities Program, two other CCAM member agencies are contributing money and support. The Department of Veterans Affairs' Transportation and Community Living Initiative is contributing up to \$3 million for the VA health care network to coordinate veterans' transportation needs with community transportation systems. ♦ The Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy is contributing \$250,000 for social media tools and training to include veterans and the military in community transportation decision-making. The Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Defense are also lending critical support, in part through their extensive networks of community-based advocates. ♦ Additional in-kind support is provided by over a dozen national veteran service organizations.

The Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative reflects the Obama Administration's commitment to meet the needs of America's fighting forces through its Joining Forces program, which gives our service members and their families the opportunities and support they have earned. ♦

###

Pilot Program Aims to Help Improve Condition of America's Transit Systems, Safety of Operations



8/5/2011

DOT 103-11

Friday, August 5, 2011

News Digest

The Federal Transit Administration has selected six transit agencies from around the country to participate in its Transit Asset Management pilot program and share \$4 million to help them take a more strategic and systematic approach to determining and anticipating when equipment needs maintenance or repairs, or when it needs to be replaced. ♦ The groundbreaking program encourages urban, suburban, and rural transit agencies to find new, cost-effective ways to manage and maintain the condition of their systems ♦ everything from railroad tracks and train stations to bus facilities and electrical equipment, resulting in improved system safety and reliability. ♦ The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (San Francisco Bay area), Regional Transportation Authority (Chicago and Northeast Illinois), Utah Transit Authority, Valley Regional Transit (Meridian, Idaho) and Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation were selected to participate in the pilot program. ♦ Contact Paul Griffo: ♦ 202-366-4064.

###

Federal Transit Administration Announces Panel to Help Advance Transit in Southeastern Michigan



8/8/2011

**Contact: David Longo
(202) 366-0608**

Panel will Share Expertise and Best Practices to Develop Planned Woodward Avenue Light Rail and Map a Bright Future for Regional Transit Solutions

DETROIT, Mich. ♦ The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration today convened a panel of highly experienced transit experts from around the country to advise Southeastern Michigan leaders on ways to create a 21st-Century public transit system. While much of the two-day meeting's focus will be on Detroit's planned Woodward Avenue light rail system, the panel will also share insights on how area leaders can work together to develop a larger vision for future public transportation development.

♦ President Obama promised to help build strong cities and strong communities so we are bringing together some of the best transit minds in the nation to tackle Southeast Michigan's transportation challenges, ♦ said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. ♦ This is a practical way to provide the support local governments need to succeed. ♦

Each of the five members of the Detroit Area Transit Panel has an industry-renowned record of achievement in creating or expanding rail transit in their own cities. The panel members were selected by the Federal Transit Administration.

♦ These proven experts have volunteered to share their experience and know-how to help bring smart, sensible transit solutions to the people of Detroit, ♦ said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff. ♦ They share Detroit's vision of bringing renewed economic opportunity and job growth to this iconic American city with a modern public transit system at its core. ♦

The panel will host workshops for regional transportation stakeholders and meet one-on-one with several key statewide, city, and local officials to learn firsthand the unique challenges and opportunities of implementing rail transit in the Detroit metropolitan area. Specifically, the panel will meet with City of Detroit officials, senior staff of the office of Governor Rick

Snyder, State of Michigan Department of Transportation officials, the County Executives of the greater-Detroit region, M1 Rail and the Southeast Michigan Area Regional Transportation.

In February 2010, Detroit was awarded \$25 million from the Department's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program for the first phase of the proposed Woodward Avenue light rail line—a 3.4-mile rail system connecting Downtown Detroit to the New Center district along the region's main artery on Woodward Avenue.

The creation of the Detroit Area Transit Panel aligns with the Obama Administration's July announcement of a new and customized pilot initiative, [♦Strong Cities, Strong Communities♦](#), which is a new interagency pilot initiative that aims to strengthen neighborhoods, towns, cities and regions around the country by strengthening the capacity of local governments to develop and execute their economic vision and strategies.

Members of the Detroit Area Transit Panel include:

- **John English** is the Chief Executive Officer of the Utah Transit Authority, which provides public transportation service to Salt Lake City and surrounding counties. Mr. English has overseen the funding and construction of more than \$4 billion in rail infrastructure of which 70 miles of light rail and commuter rail are in place and operating and another 70 miles are under construction and scheduled to open in the next three years.
- **Cal Marsella** retired in 2009 as the General Manager and Chief Executive Officer of the Denver Regional Transit District. Mr. Marsella developed the region's successful FasTracks rail plan and secured a dedicated sales tax revenue to support its implementation and operation. Mr. Marsella is also a nationally-recognized leader in facilitating innovative public-private partnerships for transit capital projects and service delivery.
- **Neil McFarlane** is General Manager of Portland TriMet. Before that, he served for 12 years as TriMet's Executive Director for Capital Projects, advancing the expansion of the region's rail system and overseeing extensive capital investments for bus systems. McFarlane helped establish TriMet's MAX light rail transit as an internationally known and respected system for planning, design, and construction innovation, delivering three light rail lines on-time and on-budget.
- **Dr. Beverly Scott** is the Chief Executive Officer of the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA), the ninth largest public transportation system in the United States. Prior to her appointment at MARTA, she served as the General Manager/CEO of the Sacramento Regional Transit District, where she oversaw the expansion of its light rail transit system. Dr. Scott has also held senior

leadership positions with the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority, New York Metropolitan Transit Authority, the New Jersey Transit Corporation, the Washington Metropolitan Transportation Authority, and Dallas Area Rapid Transit, and is a past Chair of the American Public Transportation Association.

- **Gary Thomas** is the President and Executive Director of the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART). Thomas is responsible for a 13-city transit system over a 700-square mile area with bus, light rail, commuter rail, paratransit and high occupancy vehicle lane services. He administers the goals and policies of the DART Board of Directors, including the largest public transit expansion in North America. He has overseen the design and construction of all of DART's major capital projects, including DART's light rail system.

###

FTA Deputy Administrator McMillan Joins Virginia Officials in Norfolk to Open State's First Light Rail Transit System



8/18/2011

Contact: David Longo

202-366-0608

Federally-Funded Tide Light Rail Improves Access to Jobs, Downtown Destinations

NORFOLK, Va. ♦ Deputy Federal Transit Administrator Therese McMillan today participated in the opening of Virginia's first light rail transit system, Tide Light Rail, which will improve access to jobs and numerous educational, medical and entertainment destinations in downtown Norfolk. She joined Congressman Robert C. ♦ Bobby ♦ Scott, Norfolk City Mayor Paul D. Fraim and Virginia transportation officials at the opening.

♦ The Obama Administration is making good on its promise to strengthen transportation connections and infrastructure across the nation, ♦ said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. ♦ We ♦ are giving residents of the Hampton Roads region greater access to jobs and vital services with more transportation choices and an affordable alternative to paying high gas prices. ♦

♦ As the citizens of Norfolk and the Hampton Roads region will soon discover, when light rail comes to town, wonderful things happen, ♦ said Deputy Administrator McMillan. ♦ New housing, retail and business opportunities spring up in neighborhoods served by new transit routes, traffic congestion declines and household transportation costs go down. ♦

The 7.4 mile Tide Light Rail serves 11 stations between downtown Norfolk and Interstate 264, one of the region's most heavily traveled corridors. The system is operated by Hampton Roads Transit and connects to an extensive network of bus routes that serve a population of 1.3 million in Chesapeake, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk and Virginia Beach.

The Federal Transit Administration approved a \$232 million Full Funding Grant Agreement for the project in October 2007. An additional \$32.8 million in federal funds and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act helped complete the project.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Signs \$1 Billion Federal Funding Agreement for Denver's Eagle P3 Commuter Rail Line, Project Expected to Create an Estimated 4,700 Construction-Related Jobs



Officials Break Ground on Eagle P3's Western Gold Line Segment

8/31/2011

**Contact: Paul Griffo
(202) 366-4064**

DENVER ♦ U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today signed an agreement committing \$1 billion to Denver's Eagle P3, a 30-mile two-pronged commuter rail project that will significantly expand transportation choices in the greater Denver area, create jobs and cut by nearly half the amount of time it now takes to get from downtown Denver to the airport.

Secretary LaHood signed the funding agreement at a groundbreaking ceremony for the Gold Line in Olde Town Arvada today, alongside Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff, Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper, U.S. Representative Ed Perlmutter, U.S. Representative Diana DeGette, Denver Mayor Michael Hancock and other area officials.

"Through the Eagle P3 project, the Obama Administration and the Denver Regional Transportation District are putting greater Denver on a smart path to sustainable growth, while generating thousands of good local jobs," said Secretary LaHood. "Eagle P3 provides Denver with transportation choices that reduce congestion, promote clean air and reduce our nation's dependence on costly oil."

The Denver Regional Transit District (RTD) is the first transit agency in the nation to successfully pursue a comprehensive public-private partnership, or P3, that encompasses the design, construction, financing, operation, and maintenance of its regional transit projects. The federal funding agreement covers roughly half of the \$2 billion cost of the entire project, which is expected to generate roughly 4,700 construction-related jobs in the Denver metro area.

The federal funding agreement clears the way for construction to begin on the western segment of Eagle P3, also known as the Gold Line, which will serve the suburbs of Arvada and Wheat Ridge. The East Line of Eagle P3, which has already begun construction using local funds, will run from

Denver's historic Union Station nearly 23 miles east to Denver International Airport and will connect to existing light rail and bus service.

"Denver and its suburbs are executing one of the most ambitious and far-reaching public transportation programs in the country—one that will allow millions of Coloradans to enjoy new and improved access to transit right in their neighborhoods," Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff said. "This will give working families more reliable, affordable transportation that will allow them to spend more time at home and less money at the gas pump."

The Eagle P3 project and Denver Union Station's ongoing renovation are part of RTD's far-reaching FasTracks program, a voter-approved, multi-year, multibillion-dollar transit expansion program covering 140 miles of rail and bus corridors that will help Denver to successfully manage growth and compete for business for years to come.

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is the major federal funder through a combination of grants and loans. A consortium of private companies, known as the [Denver Transit Partners](#), is responsible for financing the rest through tax-exempt private-activity bonds issued by RTD and other means.

To ensure that Denver's citizens participate as fully as possible in the jobs created by this work, the FTA recently [awarded](#) nearly half a million dollars towards the innovative *Denver Regional Workforce Initiative Now*. The effort brings local transportation, education, and business leaders together to train, hire, develop and retain transit workers eager to work on Denver's federally-funded transportation infrastructure projects.

The entire project is slated for completion in 2016. The new railcars slated for use on the commuter line will be assembled in the United States and will consist of at least 60 percent US-made components, consistent with the Administration's Buy America requirements.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood Awards \$25 Million for Charlotte Streetcar to Improve Access to Jobs, Boost Economic Growth



Investments in Transportation Projects Part of President Obama's Vision to Create Jobs

9/19/2011

**Contact: Justin Nisly
202-366-4570**

CHARLOTTE, N.C. ♦ U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood and Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff today joined with Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx at Central Piedmont Community College to award the City of Charlotte with nearly \$25 million for a streetcar line that will improve access to jobs, housing, and schools, and will spur economic development in the heart of one of the nation's fastest-growing metropolitan areas. They also called on Congress to immediately pass President Obama's American Jobs Act, which will invest in job-creating transportation projects like the Charlotte Streetcar all across the country.

"Putting American workers on transportation construction sites in cities like Charlotte is a crucial part of the President's vision for the future of this country," said Secretary LaHood. "Unemployed construction workers across the country are ready to roll up their sleeves right now. Congress needs to pass the American Jobs Act right away and to put America back to work."

Six stops will be built as part of the initial 1.5-mile section of the Charlotte Streetcar Project, including the Charlotte Transportation Center near Time-Warner Cable Arena, the city's Government Center, McDowell Street, Central Piedmont Community College, Travis Avenue and Presbyterian Hospital. This is the first phase of a planned 10-mile streetcar line that will serve the entire metropolitan Charlotte area.

"We are committed to helping Charlotte build innovative transportation options that connect local workers with housing and employment opportunities springing up around Center City," said Administrator Rogoff. "This project will provide jobs for construction workers today, as well as safe, reliable transit choices to residents for years to come."

The City of Charlotte has acquired three vintage streetcars to be used for the project, which is funded through the Federal Transit Administration's Urban Circulator Grant Program. The Charlotte Area Transportation System

(CATS) will operate and maintain the streetcar system once it is constructed.

Also attending today's event were construction workers from the CATS North Davidson Bus Facility nearby, which was recently renovated and expanded with \$20 million of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds. Approximately 150 jobs were created over the last two years at the facility, which will improve the efficiency of operating and maintaining up to 200 buses.

Secretary LaHood also called on Congress to immediately pass an extension of the surface transportation bill, which is set to expire on September 30, so that crucial projects like the Charlotte Streetcar Project are not put in jeopardy. If Congress allows the current surface transportation extension to expire, more than 4,000 federal employees will immediately go without pay. If Congress delays actions for just 10 days beyond that, nearly \$1 billion in funding that could be spent on construction projects across the nation would be lost. And if Congress waits even longer, almost 1 million workers could be in danger of losing their jobs over the next year.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces \$928.5 M To Put Americans Back to Work Repairing, Rebuilding, Modernizing the Nation's Transit Infrastructure



Federal funds will create jobs nationwide by strengthening transit choices while improving safety and reliability

10/17/2011

**Contact: Paul Griffo
(202) 366-4064**

DETROIT ♦ U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced that transit providers across the nation will receive a share of \$928.5 million in federal funds for more than 300 public transportation projects in urban, suburban, and rural areas. ♦ The money will put people to work renovating and building much needed transit facilities, manufacturing new clean-fuel buses, and helping communities plan responsibly for their future transit needs. He was joined in making the announcement by Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff.

"Investing in America's transit systems, rails, roads, ports, and airports ♦ will ♦ generate tens of thousands of construction-related jobs and put more money in the pockets of working Americans," said Secretary Ray LaHood. "But we must do more. Congress needs to pass the American Jobs Act so we can continue to invest in critically needed projects like these, to repair and rebuild our nation's transportation system."

The ♦ grants announced today, made available through the Federal Transit Administration's fiscal year 2011 Alternatives Analysis, Bus Livability, and State of Good Repair Programs, will go toward replacing or refurbishing aging buses, building or improving bus terminals, garages, and other transit facilities, installing bus-related equipment, and conducting studies to help communities select the best transit options to meet future transportation needs.

"These grant funds will make sure that bus service in our communities remains reliable and desirable while putting thousands of Americans to work at the same time," said Administrator Rogoff. ♦ "By passing the American Jobs Act, Congress can accelerate these efforts and give the American people the opportunity to keep more of their paycheck in their wallet rather than hand it over at the gas pump."

The grant selection process was highly competitive, and FTA reviewed 839 project applications representing \$4.9 billion in funding requests from transit providers across the country for the Fiscal Year 2011 discretionary grants. Examples of major projects receiving federal funds include:

- The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments will receive \$2 million to study a possible second phase of the planned Woodward Avenue corridor transit project in Detroit and the best mode of transit to pursue. The first phase, a light rail line still in the early planning stages, would end just south of Eight Mile Road. The second phase may one day provide additional transit solutions another 7.5 miles to Maple Road (Fifteen Mile Road).
- Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority (Sound Transit) will receive \$5.4 million to replace buses in its Seattle-area fleet that are beyond their useful lives with hybrid-diesel buses.
- The Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority will receive \$5 million to restore Philadelphia's historic 33rd Street and Dauphin Street bus facility, a 110-year-old facility that is in a state of disrepair.

The full list of selected projects can be found at <http://fta.dot.gov/grants/13094.html>.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces \$46.7 Million To Put Americans Back to Work Rebuilding, Modernizing Transit Facilities in Michigan



Announcement Follows Meeting with Governor Snyder, Mayor Bing, and County Officials to Discuss the Region's Transportation Future

10/17/2011

**Contact: Paul Griffo
(202) 366-4064**

DETROIT ♦ U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced \$46.7 million for 16 Michigan projects that will put people to work renovating and building needed transit facilities, put more clean-fuel buses on the road and help communities plan for their future transit needs. ♦

The announcement followed a meeting between Secretary LaHood, Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff, Michigan Governor Rick Snyder, Detroit Mayor David Bing and local officials to discuss how to help Detroit and Southeastern Michigan move forward with regional transit solutions and address challenges resulting from decades of under-investment in vital transportation infrastructure.

"Strengthening and modernizing Michigan's transit systems will generate thousands of construction-related jobs and put more money in the pockets of working Americans," said Secretary LaHood. "But we must do more.

Congress needs to pass the American Jobs Act so we can continue to invest in critically needed projects to repair and rebuild our nation's transportation infrastructure."

The Michigan grants are among nearly 300 competitive discretionary grants totaling more than \$900 million announced nationwide today by Secretary LaHood and Administrator Rogoff to rebuild and renovate America's transit infrastructure and plan for the future. The funds are from the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) fiscal year 2011 *Alternatives Analysis, Bus Livability*, and *State of Good Repair* programs.

"This money will ensure transit services in the City of Detroit and the State of Michigan are reliable and desirable and put hundreds of people to work at the same time," said Administrator Rogoff. ♦ "As we create jobs and improve current service, we are also looking to the future of Greater Detroit by continuing discussions for a regional approach to transit planning."

FTA reviewed 839 project applications representing \$4.9 billion in funding requests from transit providers across the country for the Fiscal Year 2011 competitive discretionary grant programs. Passing the American Jobs Act would help many more qualified projects to be funded, and create tens of thousands more jobs.

The complete list of selected projects can be found at <http://fta.dot.gov/grants/13094.html>

Projects receiving federal funding in Michigan are:

- The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments will receive \$2 million to study transit options in a 5.9-mile section of the Woodward Avenue corridor between Eight Mile and Fifteen Mile Roads.
- The Blue Water Area Transportation Commission will receive \$6.9 million to replace the existing Quay Street Transfer Center with one that is more centrally located in downtown Port Huron. The project will consolidate the transfer center over a smaller area, decreasing the time needed to make necessary transfers and improving service to customers.
- The Capital Area Transit Authority will receive \$4 million to replace buses in its fleet that are beyond their useful lives with hybrid-electric buses and to rehabilitate existing buses to extend their useful lives by five years.
- The Macatawa Area Express Transportation Authority will receive \$2 million to replace its aging bus facility with one that will meet the needs of the current fleet while allowing for future expansion. The new facility will include a number of LEED design aspects to allow savings on operating expenses.
- The Thunder Bay Transportation Authority will receive \$6 million for phases one and two of a new administration and maintenance facility. This facility will incorporate the newest circulation and ventilation system to reduce the harmful emissions from the diesel fleet. To reduce operational costs, the facility will also include additional LEED and green design techniques to the greatest extent possible.
- The Michigan DOT will receive \$746,770 for public transportation bus equipment projects across the state in rural and small urban areas.
- The Mass Transportation Authority in Flint will receive \$5.2 million to purchase hybrid buses to replace city buses in its fleet that are beyond their useful lives, and \$3 million to purchase CNG coaches to replace commuter buses in its fleet that are beyond their useful lives.
- The Ann Arbor Transportation Authority will receive \$2.6 million to purchase clean diesel buses with hybrid-electric components to increase bus service along the Washtenaw Avenue Corridor. The project is among a number of strategies for transportation and

development improvements in the corridor. The Ann Arbor Transportation Authority will also receive \$1.2 million to study transit alternatives in the 8.5-mile crescent-shaped corridor extending from northeast Ann Arbor through the University of Michigan (UM) North and Central Campus, through the UM South Campus to Briarwood Mall near I-94. ♦

- The City of Grand Haven/Harbor Transit will receive \$607,200 to purchase additional vehicles to allow the expansion of service into a nearby township not currently served by transit. ♦
- The Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation will receive nearly \$5 million to replace buses in its fleet that have met their useful lives with hybrid biodiesel/electric buses. ♦
- The City of Detroit Department of Transportation will receive \$6 million to replace buses that are beyond their useful lives, \$518,291 to rehabilitate a number of buildings at its Coolidge Terminal, and \$320,000 to develop an asset management system that will more effectively track the condition of its fleet, facilities and equipment.
- The Interurban Transit Partnership will receive \$600,000 to study the 12-mile Allendale corridor along Lake Michigan Drive/M-45 connecting the Grand Valley State University Allendale campus, the Standale/downtown Walker area, the GVSU Pew Campus, and downtown Grand Rapids.

A light rail project ending just south of Eight Mile Road is being planned for a 3.4-mile section of the Woodward Avenue corridor. The environmental process for both phases of the project was recently completed. Last year, Secretary LaHood awarded the Woodward Avenue project \$25 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act ♦s TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) program.

###

U. S. Department of Transportation Announces \$14.4 Million to Improve Transit Facilities, Access to Jobs in Eastern Pennsylvania



Funds part of nationwide grants to help rebuild, renovate America's transit infrastructure

10/18/2011

**Contact: Paul Griffo
(202) 366-4064**

[\[Audio of Excerpted Remarks\]](#) [\[Transcript of Excerpted Remarks\]](#)

Delivered by Peter Rogoff, FTA

ALLENTOWN, Pa. ♦ The Lehigh Valley, in eastern Pennsylvania, received \$14.4 million from the Federal Transit Administration to improve transit facilities in Allentown and Easton. The money will help put more than 100 people to work building modern, efficient transit facilities which will help meet the needs of a growing number of transit riders in eastern Pennsylvania's Lehigh Valley. If passed by Congress, President Obama's American Jobs Act could make more projects like this possible throughout the country.

♦ Investing in America's transit systems, rails, roads, ports, and airports is the perfect way to generate tens of thousands of construction-related jobs and put more money into the pockets of working Americans, ♦ said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. ♦ But we must do more. Congress needs to pass the American Jobs Act so we can continue to invest in critically needed projects like these, to repair and rebuild our nation's transportation infrastructure. ♦

Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff was on hand to announce the money, which was made available through the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) fiscal year 2011 Bus Livability and State of Good Repair Programs. The money will help replace the Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority's nearly 60-year-old bus maintenance garage in Allentown with a new energy-efficient facility that can readily accommodate a fleet of modern hybrid buses and other vehicles.

The money will also help the City of Easton and its private partner construct a new Intermodal Transportation Center in downtown Easton that will offer area residents more convenient access to local bus lines as well as bus lines connecting Philadelphia, northern New Jersey, and New York. Prior to

today's announcement, the project received \$3.3 million in federal funding. Both facilities are expected to be completed in 2013.

Residents of Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton will have better access to jobs, medical appointments and other services with improved transportation choices as a result of these funds, said FTA Administrator Rogoff.

We're also helping to create jobs at a time when they are needed most.

The grants are included among more than 300 competitive discretionary grants totaling nearly \$930 million announced nationwide yesterday by Secretary LaHood and Administrator Rogoff to rebuild and renovate America's transit infrastructure and plan for the future. FTA is providing \$67.2 million for 11 projects in Pennsylvania. A complete list of successful project proposals can be found at <http://fta.dot.gov/grants/13094.html>.

FTA reviewed 839 project applications representing \$4.9 billion in funding requests from transit providers across the country for the fiscal year 2011 competitive discretionary grant programs. Passing the American Jobs Act would help many more qualified projects to be funded and create tens of thousands more jobs.

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Announces \$9 Million for New Bus Operations and Maintenance Facility in Gainesville, Fla.



New energy-efficient facility expected to create approximately 300 construction jobs

10/19/2011

**Contact: Paul Griffo
(202) 366-4064**

GAINESVILLE, Fla. ♦ Gainesville is one step closer to having a new facility for the operations, maintenance and repair of its growing bus system, thanks to a \$9 million grant to the Gainesville Regional Transit System (RTS). If passed by Congress, President Obama's American Jobs Act could make more projects like this possible throughout the country.

The grant is included among more than 300 competitive discretionary grants totaling nearly \$930 million announced nationwide yesterday by Secretary LaHood and Administrator Rogoff to rebuild and renovate America's transit infrastructure and plan for the future. FTA is providing nearly \$39 million for 11 projects in Florida.

♦ American infrastructure built by American workers is a key priority for President Obama and will help get the economy moving, ♦ said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. ♦ Congress needs to pass the American Jobs Act so we can continue to invest in critically needed projects like this one, to repair and rebuild our nation's transportation system

Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff was on hand today to announce the money, which will pay for a 30,000-square foot energy-efficient facility. The new facility will replace an aging, overcrowded garage that has outgrown RTS's current fleet of 105 buses. Prior to today's announcement, the project received \$14.6 million in federal funding.

♦ Gainesville residents who rely on RTS to get to work, to school, or to the doctor deserve to ride buses that are safe, and on time, ♦ said FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff. ♦ Building this facility will continue to give the community plenty of transportation options, and will create much needed jobs now. ♦

The overall project, which is expected to create approximately 300 construction jobs, will ultimately include administrative offices and a body shop. The facility, which is set to begin construction in mid-2012, is

designed to obtain the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Certification.

FTA reviewed 839 project applications representing \$4.9 billion in funding requests from transit providers across the country for the fiscal year 2011 competitive discretionary grant programs. Passing the American Jobs Act would help many more qualified projects to be funded and create tens of thousands more jobs. A complete list of successful project proposals can be found at <http://fta.dot.gov/grants/13094.html>

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces \$75 Million Grant Agreement to Modernize 50-Mile Fitchburg Commuter Rail Line



Project will increase safety, speed, reliability, and create 260 construction jobs

10/24/2011

**Contact: Paul Griffo
(202) 366-4064**

LITTLETON, Mass. ♦ U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has sealed a \$75 million agreement that will put an estimated 260 people to work making long-overdue improvements to the 50-mile Fitchburg commuter rail line, one of the state's oldest passenger rail lines still in service.

The investment will increase the train line's maximum speed by nearly 20 miles per hour, while greatly improving safety and on-time performance to 17 communities and 18 stations. If passed by Congress, President Obama's American Jobs Act could make more projects like this possible throughout the country.

♦ Congress needs to pass the transportation portion of the American Jobs Act as quickly as possible so we can continue to invest in critically needed projects like this one, ♦ Secretary Ray LaHood said. ♦ Repairing and rebuilding our nation's rails, roads, ports and airports will put tens of thousands of people to work today building the infrastructure we need to keep our economy moving forward in the future. ♦

Joined by members of the Massachusetts delegation and state and local officials, FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff signed the agreement with the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) to provide the federal share of the \$159 million project, which will significantly reduce travel times and improve connections between suburban Fitchburg and the MBTA's Red Line at Porter Square just outside Boston.

♦ Making these long overdue improvements to the Fitchburg rail line will attract more people to try transit while enabling thousands of daily commuters to get home in time for dinner with their families and help their kids with homework, ♦ Administrator Rogoff said. ♦ The President's American Jobs Act includes funds to make much-needed repairs like these to rail and bus transit systems around the country, and create jobs we need now. ♦

Nearly 20 percent of the current line, 9.6 miles, travels on a single track. Maximum train speed is 60 miles per hour, and significantly slower in many sections along the Fitchburg line, which is now the oldest, longest and slowest running rail branch within the MBTA system. It also has the worst on-time performance in all of MBTA.

Planned improvements include:

- Track upgrades that will allow trains to travel at speeds of up to 79 miles per hour
- Construction of high-level platforms for better accessibility
- Replacement and updating of grade crossing warning systems
- Construction of new and modified interlocking
- Transfer of the Waltham Tower to MBTA Control Center
- Bridge repair and replacement

The \$75 million in FTA Small Starts funds has already been appropriated and to date FTA has awarded \$7.8 million for the engineering and design of the project. The Fitchburg Line will continue to operate during the modernization project, which is expected to be completed before 2015.

The Fitchburg Line is also the recipient of \$59.2 million from the Department's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER I) program. The TIGER grants will fund a 4.5-mile extension of the line and construction of a new Wachusett Station.

###

FTA Administrator Rogoff on Hand for Grand Opening of Recovery Act-Funded Croydon Rail Station



President's American Jobs Act could create many more jobs rebuilding greater Philadelphia's aging transportation systems

10/28/2011

**Contact: Brian Farber
(202) 366-4043**

BRISTOL TOWNSHIP, Pa. ♦ Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff was in Croydon today for the official ribbon cutting of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority's (SEPTA) Croydon regional rail transit station. The station, which has had major, state-of-the-art upgrades, was ♦ completed with the help of ♦ \$8.5 million from the ♦ Obama Administration's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, as well as \$11 million in additional FTA funding.

"Strengthening and modernizing Pennsylvania's transit systems is generating thousands of construction-related jobs and putting more money in the pockets of working Americans," said Secretary LaHood. "But we must do more. Congress needs to pass the transportation provisions in the American Jobs Act as soon as possible so we can continue to invest in critically needed projects like this one, ♦ and to repair and rebuild our nation's transportation systems."

The new Croydon Station improvements include new platforms to make the stations and trains more accessible, especially for disabled passengers, stairways between the platforms, new shelters for passengers waiting for trains and buses, and an overall better multi-modal experience, including expanded commuter parking.

Administrator Rogoff ♦ spoke about the need for Congress to pass the transportation piece of the American Jobs Act, which ♦ would fund ♦ badly-needed projects ♦ in Pennsylvania and the country ♦ and put thousands of Americans back to work.

"This gleaming station is one of 32 projects that SEPTA has been able to undertake with a big boost from the Recovery Act, which has helped create jobs in the region ♦ 247 from this project alone ♦ and bring better transportation choices to Southeastern Pennsylvania," Rogoff said. "The American Jobs Act will keep this momentum going throughout the

Philadelphia region and its suburbs because there's a lot of work to be done."

Croydon Station, which is 20 miles northeast of Philadelphia on SEPTA's Trenton Line, has nearly 300 boardings on an average weekday.

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Announces \$34.7 Million for Improvements to Transit in Los Angeles



Transit Official in LA for Announcement and to Encourage Congress to Pass President Obama's American Jobs Act

10/28/2011

**Contact: Paul Griffo
(202) 366-4064**

LOS ANGELES ♦ People living and visiting the Los Angeles area will soon have improved transit options and reduced congestion thanks to \$34.7 million from the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) 2011 Bus Livability and State of Good Repair competitive discretionary programs. FTA Deputy Administrator Therese McMillan was at Metro headquarters in Los Angeles today to make the announcement and to encourage Congress to support the transportation investments proposed under President Obama's American Jobs Act. She was joined by Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Metro CEO Art Leahy and other officials.

♦ Investing in America's transit systems, rails, roads, ports and airports is the perfect way to generate tens of thousands of construction-related jobs and put more money into the pockets of working Americans, ♦ said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. ♦ But we must do more. Congress needs to pass the transportation portion of the American Jobs Act so we can continue to invest in critically needed projects like these, and to repair and modernize our nation's transportation systems. ♦

The U.S. Senate is expected to vote on the transportation proposals made under the President's American Jobs Act next week.

The transit grants announced today will help Metro purchase new energy-efficient compressed natural gas buses and construct a new Patsaouras Plaza Bus Station adjacent to Union Station in downtown Los Angeles, which will serve El Monte Busway passengers and other transit riders. The improved station will connect directly to Union Station, Los Angeles' main passenger rail station, and provide more convenient connections between other bus lines, light rail, Amtrak and Metrolink commuter rail.

The project is part of the Metro ExpressLanes Demonstration Program, a larger strategic effort to reduce traffic congestion along the I-10 and I-110 freeways in Los Angeles County. The demonstration program, a partnership between the U.S. Department of Transportation, Metro and the California

Department of Transportation (Caltrans), is currently under construction and expected to generate 2,400 jobs, thanks in part to a \$210 million federal grant awarded by the Department of Transportation four years ago.

◆As a native Californian, I know first-hand just how crowded our highways and roads are and how without these federal investments our cities◆ buses will continue to age and break down,◆ Deputy Administrator McMillan said. ◆This Administration is committed to working with Los Angeles to bring more good transportation projects home that will help create new jobs, while achieving the goals of reducing congestion, cleaning our air, and allowing families to save on gas.◆

The grants announced today are included among more than 300 competitive discretionary grants totaling nearly \$930 million announced nationwide earlier this month by Secretary LaHood and FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff to rebuild and renovate America◆s transit infrastructure and plan for the future. FTA is providing more than \$126 million for 41 projects in California. A complete list of successful project proposals can be found at <http://fta.dot.gov/grants/13094.html>.

FTA reviewed 839 project applications representing \$4.9 billion in funding requests from transit providers across the country for the fiscal year 2011 competitive discretionary grant programs. Passing the American Jobs Act would help many more qualified projects to be funded, and create tens of thousands more jobs.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Calls for Passage of Jobs Bill to Strengthen Transportation and Put People Back to Work



Transportation Jobs Bill Would Deliver \$384.2 Million to Repair, Modernize Transit in Pennsylvania

11/3/2011

**Contact: Paul Griffo
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NORRISTOWN, Pa. ♦ U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today called on Congress to pass the transportation portion of the American Jobs Act during a visit to the Bridgeport-Norristown Viaduct outside Philadelphia, a century-old passenger rail bridge that is among the hundreds of pieces of transportation infrastructure across Pennsylvania in serious need of upgrades and repairs. ♦ The investments made under the transportation portion of the American Jobs Act could put hundreds of thousands of people to work in Pennsylvania and around the country, renovating and rebuilding our roads, rails, and runways.

♦ There ♦s no such thing as a Democratic or Republican bridge, and there ♦s no such thing as a Democratic or Republican job when it comes to rebuilding our aging infrastructure, ♦ said Secretary LaHood, who was joined by state and local officials. ♦ ♦ Congress needs to pass the transportation portion of the American Jobs Act as soon as possible so we can continue to modernize our transportation systems and keep our economy moving forward. ♦

The transportation piece of President Obama's American Jobs Act would make an immediate investment of \$50 billion in America's transportation infrastructure and put people back to work upgrading 150,000 miles of road, laying or maintaining 4,000 miles of train tracks, restoring 150 miles of runways, and putting in place a next-generation air-traffic control system that will reduce travel time and delays.

The President's legislation would also make a \$10 billion investment to create a nonpartisan National Infrastructure Bank that would operate independently and issue loans for major transportation and infrastructure projects based on two criteria: how badly a road, bridge, transit, water, or energy project is needed and how much good it would do for the economy. ♦ These investments would also be paid for without adding a dime to the deficit; resources would come from a balanced deficit reduction plan that

includes closing corporate tax loopholes and asking the wealthiest Americans to pay their fair share.

The Jobs Act would invest \$50 billion in crucial transportation projects, including about \$1.4 billion for projects across Pennsylvania.♦♦♦ As part of that \$1.4 billion, Pennsylvania would receive \$384.2 million in much-needed federal transit assistance that could be used to repair and rehabilitate infrastructure such as the Bridgeport Viaduct that Secretary LaHood visited today, which was built by the Philadelphia and Western Railroad a century ago in 1911.

The 3,175-foot bridge carries approximately 24,000 Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority♦s (SEPTA) Norristown High Speed Line passengers over the Schuylkill River in Montgomery County each month.♦ The viaduct also connects passengers to the Norristown Transportation Center, a major intermodal transfer point that♦s also served by eight local bus routes and the Manayunk/Norristown commuter rail line, as well as inter-city bus service.

♦Southeastern Pennsylvania, home to some of the oldest transit infrastructure in the nation, is in need of a 21st Century overhaul,♦ said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff.♦ ♦Passing the American Jobs Act will put nearly a thousand Pennsylvanians to work rehabilitating the Bridgeport-Norristown viaduct alone, modernizing the Jenkintown power substation, or upgrading the Levittown Station on the Trenton Line, giving hundreds of thousands of SEPTA riders a more reliable and desirable commute to work each day.♦

The transportation investments made under the American Jobs Act include:

- \$27 billion for rebuilding roads and bridges
- \$9 billion for repairing bus and rail transit systems
- \$5 billion for innovative large-scale projects selected through a competitive national grant program
- \$4 billion to continue constructing America's high-speed rail network
- \$2 billion for improving airport facilities
- \$2 billion for upgrades to Amtrak equipment, cars, and stations
- \$1 billion to put in place NextGen air traffic control system

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Announces Nearly \$35 Million to Improve Transportation Choices and Job Access for Military Families



Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative recognizes unique challenges facing America's military on the home front

11/9/2011

**Contact: Paul Griffo
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WASHINGTON ♦ U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced \$34.6 million for 55 projects in 32 states and Guam to enhance access to local, affordable transportation services for military families and spouses, and wounded warriors.

Today's announcement complements the Obama Administration's Joining Forces initiative led by First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden. This comprehensive, national effort is mobilizing all sectors of society to give our service members and their families ♦ employment opportunities and support.

♦The Obama Administration is committed to providing our military veterans and their families with the resources they need and deserve, ♦ Secretary LaHood said. ♦These projects will better connect them with a range of reliable, affordable transportation options so they can get to work as well as the supermarket, their kid's day care center, medical facilities, and other destinations. ♦

Many military families live in suburban and rural communities where filling the gas tank for long commutes is expensive and public transportation is limited. Projects funded by the Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative will bridge the gap by enabling states and communities to build or expand so-called ♦one-click, one-call♦ centers that offer comprehensive information on local transportation options, and other community services, with just a single phone call or click of the mouse. Typically, such information is not available in one convenient place, and better local coordination will result in better services for veterans and nonveterans alike.

♦Military families and veterans must be able to take full advantage of the transportation resources in their communities, ♦ said Peter Rogoff, Administrator of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), which manages the grants through its discretionary Bus and Bus Facilities Program.

◆ Every service member who returns home or a spouse who relocates to a new community deserves the best possible chance to earn a reliable paycheck and that means having access to reliable transportation choices. ◆

The grant selection process was highly competitive, and FTA reviewed 70 eligible proposals representing \$52 million in funding requests. Examples of key projects receiving federal funds include:

- \$2 million to the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority in central Massachusetts to expand an existing one-call center by adding agencies serving local veterans. The center will offer an array of traveler and community services and act as a one-stop shop to military families and spouses who need them.
- \$2 million to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to work with the state's Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to create a network of four regional one-call centers and websites that bring individual transportation providers together into a regionally coordinated system to meet the needs of area military families, veterans, and others.
- \$1.9 million to the Jacksonville Transportation Authority to implement a one-call/one-click transportation resource center. The project will expand access to the regional scheduling system via internet and phone and give veterans access to a multitude of regional transportation, including public transit, vanpools and private transportation companies.
- \$614,000 to the Colorado Department of Transportation to create an information and assistance center and a coordinated scheduling center for the Denver region, which is home to nearly 200,000 veterans. Veterans are closely involved in the planning process.
- \$608,000 to the Indian Nations Council of Governments in the Tulsa, Oklahoma region to create a coordinated one-call transportation center covering 26 counties, including Muskogee, where a VA Medical Center veterans' transportation service pilot project is under way. The center will use technology to connect numerous rural transit and veteran transportation providers as a way to assess and address ongoing transportation needs.

A complete list of funded projects is available at <http://fta.dot.gov/grants/13094.html>.

The Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative is led by the federal Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility, a permanent partnership of federal departments working together to better coordinate federal programs on behalf of people with disabilities, the elderly and low-income individuals. The Council is chaired by Secretary LaHood.

In addition to USDOT, the Department of Veterans Affairs is contributing up to \$3 million for the VA health care network to coordinate veterans' transportation needs with community transportation systems. The Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy is contributing \$250,000 for social media tools and training to include veterans and the military in community transportation decision-making. The Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Defense are also lending critical support, in part through their extensive networks of community-based advocates. Additional in-kind support is provided by over a dozen national veteran service organizations.

Today's announcement supports President Obama's Veterans Employment Initiative, an ongoing effort to win major private sector commitments to veteran and military spouse employment. To date, 96 companies have formed a public-private partnership with the Department of Defense to hire military spouses. And more than 25 individual companies have stepped up and committed to veteran hiring or training targets, including, most recently, the American Logistics Association and its affiliates, which pledge to hire 25,000 veterans and spouses by the end of 2013. For more information visit: www.whitehouse.gov/joiningforces.

[Additional information on the Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative is available here.](#)

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood Awards \$25 Million for Charlotte Streetcar to Improve Access to Jobs, Boost Economic Growth



Investments in Transportation Projects Part of President Obama's Vision to Create Jobs

9/19/2011

**Contact: Justin Nisly
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CHARLOTTE, N.C. ♦ U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood and Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff today joined with Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx at Central Piedmont Community College to award the City of Charlotte with nearly \$25 million for a streetcar line that will improve access to jobs, housing, and schools, and will spur economic development in the heart of one of the nation's fastest-growing metropolitan areas. They also called on Congress to immediately pass President Obama's American Jobs Act, which will invest in job-creating transportation projects like the Charlotte Streetcar all across the country.

"Putting American workers on transportation construction sites in cities like Charlotte is a crucial part of the President's vision for the future of this country," said Secretary LaHood. "Unemployed construction workers across the country are ready to roll up their sleeves right now. Congress needs to pass the American Jobs Act right away and to put America back to work."

Six stops will be built as part of the initial 1.5-mile section of the Charlotte Streetcar Project, including the Charlotte Transportation Center near Time-Warner Cable Arena, the city's Government Center, McDowell Street, Central Piedmont Community College, Travis Avenue and Presbyterian Hospital. This is the first phase of a planned 10-mile streetcar line that will serve the entire metropolitan Charlotte area.

"We are committed to helping Charlotte build innovative transportation options that connect local workers with housing and employment opportunities springing up around Center City," said Administrator Rogoff. "This project will provide jobs for construction workers today, as well as safe, reliable transit choices to residents for years to come."

The City of Charlotte has acquired three vintage streetcars to be used for the project, which is funded through the Federal Transit Administration's Urban Circulator Grant Program. The Charlotte Area Transportation System

(CATS) will operate and maintain the streetcar system once it is constructed.

Also attending today's event were construction workers from the CATS North Davidson Bus Facility nearby, which was recently renovated and expanded with \$20 million of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds. Approximately 150 jobs were created over the last two years at the facility, which will improve the efficiency of operating and maintaining up to 200 buses.

Secretary LaHood also called on Congress to immediately pass an extension of the surface transportation bill, which is set to expire on September 30, so that crucial projects like the Charlotte Streetcar Project are not put in jeopardy. If Congress allows the current surface transportation extension to expire, more than 4,000 federal employees will immediately go without pay. If Congress delays actions for just 10 days beyond that, nearly \$1 billion in funding that could be spent on construction projects across the nation would be lost. And if Congress waits even longer, almost 1 million workers could be in danger of losing their jobs over the next year.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces \$928.5 M To Put Americans Back to Work Repairing, Rebuilding, Modernizing the Nation's Transit Infrastructure



Federal funds will create jobs nationwide by strengthening transit choices while improving safety and reliability

10/17/2011

**Contact: Paul Griffo
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DETROIT ♦ U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced that transit providers across the nation will receive a share of \$928.5 million in federal funds for more than 300 public transportation projects in urban, suburban, and rural areas. ♦ The money will put people to work renovating and building much needed transit facilities, manufacturing new clean-fuel buses, and helping communities plan responsibly for their future transit needs. He was joined in making the announcement by Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff.

"Investing in America's transit systems, rails, roads, ports, and airports ♦ will ♦ generate tens of thousands of construction-related jobs and put more money in the pockets of working Americans," said Secretary Ray LaHood. "But we must do more. Congress needs to pass the American Jobs Act so we can continue to invest in critically needed projects like these, to repair and rebuild our nation's transportation system."

The ♦ grants announced today, made available through the Federal Transit Administration's fiscal year 2011 Alternatives Analysis, Bus Livability, and State of Good Repair Programs, will go toward replacing or refurbishing aging buses, building or improving bus terminals, garages, and other transit facilities, installing bus-related equipment, and conducting studies to help communities select the best transit options to meet future transportation needs.

"These grant funds will make sure that bus service in our communities remains reliable and desirable while putting thousands of Americans to work at the same time," said Administrator Rogoff. ♦ "By passing the American Jobs Act, Congress can accelerate these efforts and give the American people the opportunity to keep more of their paycheck in their wallet rather than hand it over at the gas pump."

The grant selection process was highly competitive, and FTA reviewed 839 project applications representing \$4.9 billion in funding requests from transit providers across the country for the Fiscal Year 2011 discretionary grants. Examples of major projects receiving federal funds include:

- The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments will receive \$2 million to study a possible second phase of the planned Woodward Avenue corridor transit project in Detroit and the best mode of transit to pursue. The first phase, a light rail line still in the early planning stages, would end just south of Eight Mile Road. The second phase may one day provide additional transit solutions another 7.5 miles to Maple Road (Fifteen Mile Road).
- Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority (Sound Transit) will receive \$5.4 million to replace buses in its Seattle-area fleet that are beyond their useful lives with hybrid-diesel buses.
- The Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority will receive \$5 million to restore Philadelphia's historic 33rd Street and Dauphin Street bus facility, a 110-year-old facility that is in a state of disrepair.

The full list of selected projects can be found at <http://fta.dot.gov/grants/13094.html>.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces \$46.7 Million To Put Americans Back to Work Rebuilding, Modernizing Transit Facilities in Michigan



Announcement Follows Meeting with Governor Snyder, Mayor Bing, and County Officials to Discuss the Region's Transportation Future

10/17/2011

**Contact: Paul Griffo
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DETROIT ♦ U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced \$46.7 million for 16 Michigan projects that will put people to work renovating and building needed transit facilities, put more clean-fuel buses on the road and help communities plan for their future transit needs. ♦

The announcement followed a meeting between Secretary LaHood, Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff, Michigan Governor Rick Snyder, Detroit Mayor David Bing and local officials to discuss how to help Detroit and Southeastern Michigan move forward with regional transit solutions and address challenges resulting from decades of under-investment in vital transportation infrastructure.

"Strengthening and modernizing Michigan's transit systems will generate thousands of construction-related jobs and put more money in the pockets of working Americans," said Secretary LaHood. "But we must do more.

Congress needs to pass the American Jobs Act so we can continue to invest in critically needed projects to repair and rebuild our nation's transportation infrastructure."

The Michigan grants are among nearly 300 competitive discretionary grants totaling more than \$900 million announced nationwide today by Secretary LaHood and Administrator Rogoff to rebuild and renovate America's transit infrastructure and plan for the future. The funds are from the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) fiscal year 2011 *Alternatives Analysis, Bus Livability*, and *State of Good Repair* programs.

"This money will ensure transit services in the City of Detroit and the State of Michigan are reliable and desirable and put hundreds of people to work at the same time," said Administrator Rogoff. ♦ "As we create jobs and improve current service, we are also looking to the future of Greater Detroit by continuing discussions for a regional approach to transit planning."

FTA reviewed 839 project applications representing \$4.9 billion in funding requests from transit providers across the country for the Fiscal Year 2011 competitive discretionary grant programs. Passing the American Jobs Act would help many more qualified projects to be funded, and create tens of thousands more jobs.

The complete list of selected projects can be found at <http://fta.dot.gov/grants/13094.html>

Projects receiving federal funding in Michigan are:

- The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments will receive \$2 million to study transit options in a 5.9-mile section of the Woodward Avenue corridor between Eight Mile and Fifteen Mile Roads.
- The Blue Water Area Transportation Commission will receive \$6.9 million to replace the existing Quay Street Transfer Center with one that is more centrally located in downtown Port Huron. The project will consolidate the transfer center over a smaller area, decreasing the time needed to make necessary transfers and improving service to customers.
- The Capital Area Transit Authority will receive \$4 million to replace buses in its fleet that are beyond their useful lives with hybrid-electric buses and to rehabilitate existing buses to extend their useful lives by five years.
- The Macatawa Area Express Transportation Authority will receive \$2 million to replace its aging bus facility with one that will meet the needs of the current fleet while allowing for future expansion. The new facility will include a number of LEED design aspects to allow savings on operating expenses.
- The Thunder Bay Transportation Authority will receive \$6 million for phases one and two of a new administration and maintenance facility. This facility will incorporate the newest circulation and ventilation system to reduce the harmful emissions from the diesel fleet. To reduce operational costs, the facility will also include additional LEED and green design techniques to the greatest extent possible.
- The Michigan DOT will receive \$746,770 for public transportation bus equipment projects across the state in rural and small urban areas.
- The Mass Transportation Authority in Flint will receive \$5.2 million to purchase hybrid buses to replace city buses in its fleet that are beyond their useful lives, and \$3 million to purchase CNG coaches to replace commuter buses in its fleet that are beyond their useful lives.
- The Ann Arbor Transportation Authority will receive \$2.6 million to purchase clean diesel buses with hybrid-electric components to increase bus service along the Washtenaw Avenue Corridor. The project is among a number of strategies for transportation and

development improvements in the corridor. The Ann Arbor Transportation Authority will also receive \$1.2 million to study transit alternatives in the 8.5-mile crescent-shaped corridor extending from northeast Ann Arbor through the University of Michigan (UM) North and Central Campus, through the UM South Campus to Briarwood Mall near I-94. ♦

- The City of Grand Haven/Harbor Transit will receive \$607,200 to purchase additional vehicles to allow the expansion of service into a nearby township not currently served by transit. ♦
- The Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation will receive nearly \$5 million to replace buses in its fleet that have met their useful lives with hybrid biodiesel/electric buses. ♦
- The City of Detroit Department of Transportation will receive \$6 million to replace buses that are beyond their useful lives, \$518,291 to rehabilitate a number of buildings at its Coolidge Terminal, and \$320,000 to develop an asset management system that will more effectively track the condition of its fleet, facilities and equipment.
- The Interurban Transit Partnership will receive \$600,000 to study the 12-mile Allendale corridor along Lake Michigan Drive/M-45 connecting the Grand Valley State University Allendale campus, the Standale/downtown Walker area, the GVSU Pew Campus, and downtown Grand Rapids.

A light rail project ending just south of Eight Mile Road is being planned for a 3.4-mile section of the Woodward Avenue corridor. The environmental process for both phases of the project was recently completed. Last year, Secretary LaHood awarded the Woodward Avenue project \$25 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act ♦s TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) program.

###

U. S. Department of Transportation Announces \$14.4 Million to Improve Transit Facilities, Access to Jobs in Eastern Pennsylvania



Funds part of nationwide grants to help rebuild, renovate America's transit infrastructure

10/18/2011

**Contact: Paul Griffo
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[\[Audio of Excerpted Remarks\]](#) [\[Transcript of Excerpted Remarks\]](#)

Delivered by Peter Rogoff, FTA

ALLENTOWN, Pa. ♦ The Lehigh Valley, in eastern Pennsylvania, received \$14.4 million from the Federal Transit Administration to improve transit facilities in Allentown and Easton. The money will help put more than 100 people to work building modern, efficient transit facilities which will help meet the needs of a growing number of transit riders in eastern Pennsylvania's Lehigh Valley. If passed by Congress, President Obama's American Jobs Act could make more projects like this possible throughout the country.

♦ Investing in America's transit systems, rails, roads, ports, and airports is the perfect way to generate tens of thousands of construction-related jobs and put more money into the pockets of working Americans, ♦ said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. ♦ But we must do more. Congress needs to pass the American Jobs Act so we can continue to invest in critically needed projects like these, to repair and rebuild our nation's transportation infrastructure. ♦

Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff was on hand to announce the money, which was made available through the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) fiscal year 2011 Bus Livability and State of Good Repair Programs. The money will help replace the Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority's nearly 60-year-old bus maintenance garage in Allentown with a new energy-efficient facility that can readily accommodate a fleet of modern hybrid buses and other vehicles.

The money will also help the City of Easton and its private partner construct a new Intermodal Transportation Center in downtown Easton that will offer area residents more convenient access to local bus lines as well as bus lines connecting Philadelphia, northern New Jersey, and New York. Prior to

today's announcement, the project received \$3.3 million in federal funding. Both facilities are expected to be completed in 2013.

Residents of Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton will have better access to jobs, medical appointments and other services with improved transportation choices as a result of these funds, said FTA Administrator Rogoff.

We're also helping to create jobs at a time when they are needed most.

The grants are included among more than 300 competitive discretionary grants totaling nearly \$930 million announced nationwide yesterday by Secretary LaHood and Administrator Rogoff to rebuild and renovate America's transit infrastructure and plan for the future. FTA is providing \$67.2 million for 11 projects in Pennsylvania. A complete list of successful project proposals can be found at <http://fta.dot.gov/grants/13094.html>.

FTA reviewed 839 project applications representing \$4.9 billion in funding requests from transit providers across the country for the fiscal year 2011 competitive discretionary grant programs. Passing the American Jobs Act would help many more qualified projects to be funded and create tens of thousands more jobs.

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Announces \$9 Million for New Bus Operations and Maintenance Facility in Gainesville, Fla.



New energy-efficient facility expected to create approximately 300 construction jobs

10/19/2011

**Contact: Paul Griffo
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GAINESVILLE, Fla. ♦ Gainesville is one step closer to having a new facility for the operations, maintenance and repair of its growing bus system, thanks to a \$9 million grant to the Gainesville Regional Transit System (RTS). If passed by Congress, President Obama's American Jobs Act could make more projects like this possible throughout the country.

The grant is included among more than 300 competitive discretionary grants totaling nearly \$930 million announced nationwide yesterday by Secretary LaHood and Administrator Rogoff to rebuild and renovate America's transit infrastructure and plan for the future. FTA is providing nearly \$39 million for 11 projects in Florida.

♦ American infrastructure built by American workers is a key priority for President Obama and will help get the economy moving, ♦ said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. ♦ Congress needs to pass the American Jobs Act so we can continue to invest in critically needed projects like this one, to repair and rebuild our nation's transportation system

Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff was on hand today to announce the money, which will pay for a 30,000-square foot energy-efficient facility. The new facility will replace an aging, overcrowded garage that has outgrown RTS's current fleet of 105 buses. Prior to today's announcement, the project received \$14.6 million in federal funding.

♦ Gainesville residents who rely on RTS to get to work, to school, or to the doctor deserve to ride buses that are safe, and on time, ♦ said FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff. ♦ Building this facility will continue to give the community plenty of transportation options, and will create much needed jobs now. ♦

The overall project, which is expected to create approximately 300 construction jobs, will ultimately include administrative offices and a body shop. The facility, which is set to begin construction in mid-2012, is

designed to obtain the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Certification.

FTA reviewed 839 project applications representing \$4.9 billion in funding requests from transit providers across the country for the fiscal year 2011 competitive discretionary grant programs. Passing the American Jobs Act would help many more qualified projects to be funded and create tens of thousands more jobs. A complete list of successful project proposals can be found at <http://fta.dot.gov/grants/13094.html>

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces \$75 Million Grant Agreement to Modernize 50-Mile Fitchburg Commuter Rail Line



Project will increase safety, speed, reliability, and create 260 construction jobs

10/24/2011

**Contact: Paul Griffo
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LITTLETON, Mass. ♦ U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has sealed a \$75 million agreement that will put an estimated 260 people to work making long-overdue improvements to the 50-mile Fitchburg commuter rail line, one of the state's oldest passenger rail lines still in service.

The investment will increase the train line's maximum speed by nearly 20 miles per hour, while greatly improving safety and on-time performance to 17 communities and 18 stations. If passed by Congress, President Obama's American Jobs Act could make more projects like this possible throughout the country.

♦ Congress needs to pass the transportation portion of the American Jobs Act as quickly as possible so we can continue to invest in critically needed projects like this one, ♦ Secretary Ray LaHood said. ♦ Repairing and rebuilding our nation's rails, roads, ports and airports will put tens of thousands of people to work today building the infrastructure we need to keep our economy moving forward in the future. ♦

Joined by members of the Massachusetts delegation and state and local officials, FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff signed the agreement with the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) to provide the federal share of the \$159 million project, which will significantly reduce travel times and improve connections between suburban Fitchburg and the MBTA's Red Line at Porter Square just outside Boston.

♦ Making these long overdue improvements to the Fitchburg rail line will attract more people to try transit while enabling thousands of daily commuters to get home in time for dinner with their families and help their kids with homework, ♦ Administrator Rogoff said. ♦ The President's American Jobs Act includes funds to make much-needed repairs like these to rail and bus transit systems around the country, and create jobs we need now. ♦

Nearly 20 percent of the current line, 9.6 miles, travels on a single track. Maximum train speed is 60 miles per hour, and significantly slower in many sections along the Fitchburg line, which is now the oldest, longest and slowest running rail branch within the MBTA system. It also has the worst on-time performance in all of MBTA.

Planned improvements include:

- Track upgrades that will allow trains to travel at speeds of up to 79 miles per hour
- Construction of high-level platforms for better accessibility
- Replacement and updating of grade crossing warning systems
- Construction of new and modified interlocking
- Transfer of the Waltham Tower to MBTA Control Center
- Bridge repair and replacement

The \$75 million in FTA Small Starts funds has already been appropriated and to date FTA has awarded \$7.8 million for the engineering and design of the project. The Fitchburg Line will continue to operate during the modernization project, which is expected to be completed before 2015.

The Fitchburg Line is also the recipient of \$59.2 million from the Department's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER I) program. The TIGER grants will fund a 4.5-mile extension of the line and construction of a new Wachusett Station.

###

FTA Administrator Rogoff on Hand for Grand Opening of Recovery Act-Funded Croydon Rail Station



President's American Jobs Act could create many more jobs rebuilding greater Philadelphia's aging transportation systems

10/28/2011

**Contact: Brian Farber
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BRISTOL TOWNSHIP, Pa. ♦ Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff was in Croydon today for the official ribbon cutting of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority's (SEPTA) Croydon regional rail transit station. The station, which has had major, state-of-the-art upgrades, was ♦ completed with the help of ♦ \$8.5 million from the ♦ Obama Administration's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, as well as \$11 million in additional FTA funding.

"Strengthening and modernizing Pennsylvania's transit systems is generating thousands of construction-related jobs and putting more money in the pockets of working Americans," said Secretary LaHood. "But we must do more. Congress needs to pass the transportation provisions in the American Jobs Act as soon as possible so we can continue to invest in critically needed projects like this one, ♦ and to repair and rebuild our nation's transportation systems."

The new Croydon Station improvements include new platforms to make the stations and trains more accessible, especially for disabled passengers, stairways between the platforms, new shelters for passengers waiting for trains and buses, and an overall better multi-modal experience, including expanded commuter parking.

Administrator Rogoff ♦ spoke about the need for Congress to pass the transportation piece of the American Jobs Act, which ♦ would fund ♦ badly-needed projects ♦ in Pennsylvania and the country ♦ and put thousands of Americans back to work.

"This gleaming station is one of 32 projects that SEPTA has been able to undertake with a big boost from the Recovery Act, which has helped create jobs in the region ♦ 247 from this project alone ♦ and bring better transportation choices to Southeastern Pennsylvania," Rogoff said. "The American Jobs Act will keep this momentum going throughout the

Philadelphia region and its suburbs because there's a lot of work to be done."

Croydon Station, which is 20 miles northeast of Philadelphia on SEPTA's Trenton Line, has nearly 300 boardings on an average weekday.

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Announces \$34.7 Million for Improvements to Transit in Los Angeles



Transit Official in LA for Announcement and to Encourage Congress to Pass President Obama's American Jobs Act

10/28/2011

**Contact: Paul Griffo
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LOS ANGELES ♦ People living and visiting the Los Angeles area will soon have improved transit options and reduced congestion thanks to \$34.7 million from the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) 2011 Bus Livability and State of Good Repair competitive discretionary programs. FTA Deputy Administrator Therese McMillan was at Metro headquarters in Los Angeles today to make the announcement and to encourage Congress to support the transportation investments proposed under President Obama's American Jobs Act. She was joined by Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Metro CEO Art Leahy and other officials.

♦ Investing in America's transit systems, rails, roads, ports and airports is the perfect way to generate tens of thousands of construction-related jobs and put more money into the pockets of working Americans, ♦ said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. ♦ But we must do more. Congress needs to pass the transportation portion of the American Jobs Act so we can continue to invest in critically needed projects like these, and to repair and modernize our nation's transportation systems. ♦

The U.S. Senate is expected to vote on the transportation proposals made under the President's American Jobs Act next week.

The transit grants announced today will help Metro purchase new energy-efficient compressed natural gas buses and construct a new Patsaouras Plaza Bus Station adjacent to Union Station in downtown Los Angeles, which will serve El Monte Busway passengers and other transit riders. The improved station will connect directly to Union Station, Los Angeles' main passenger rail station, and provide more convenient connections between other bus lines, light rail, Amtrak and Metrolink commuter rail.

The project is part of the Metro ExpressLanes Demonstration Program, a larger strategic effort to reduce traffic congestion along the I-10 and I-110 freeways in Los Angeles County. The demonstration program, a partnership between the U.S. Department of Transportation, Metro and the California

Department of Transportation (Caltrans), is currently under construction and expected to generate 2,400 jobs, thanks in part to a \$210 million federal grant awarded by the Department of Transportation four years ago.

◆As a native Californian, I know first-hand just how crowded our highways and roads are and how without these federal investments our cities◆ buses will continue to age and break down,◆ Deputy Administrator McMillan said. ◆This Administration is committed to working with Los Angeles to bring more good transportation projects home that will help create new jobs, while achieving the goals of reducing congestion, cleaning our air, and allowing families to save on gas.◆

The grants announced today are included among more than 300 competitive discretionary grants totaling nearly \$930 million announced nationwide earlier this month by Secretary LaHood and FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff to rebuild and renovate America◆s transit infrastructure and plan for the future. FTA is providing more than \$126 million for 41 projects in California. A complete list of successful project proposals can be found at <http://fta.dot.gov/grants/13094.html>.

FTA reviewed 839 project applications representing \$4.9 billion in funding requests from transit providers across the country for the fiscal year 2011 competitive discretionary grant programs. Passing the American Jobs Act would help many more qualified projects to be funded, and create tens of thousands more jobs.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Calls for Passage of Jobs Bill to Strengthen Transportation and Put People Back to Work



Transportation Jobs Bill Would Deliver \$384.2 Million to Repair, Modernize Transit in Pennsylvania

11/3/2011

**Contact: Paul Griffo
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NORRISTOWN, Pa. ♦ U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today called on Congress to pass the transportation portion of the American Jobs Act during a visit to the Bridgeport-Norristown Viaduct outside Philadelphia, a century-old passenger rail bridge that is among the hundreds of pieces of transportation infrastructure across Pennsylvania in serious need of upgrades and repairs. ♦ The investments made under the transportation portion of the American Jobs Act could put hundreds of thousands of people to work in Pennsylvania and around the country, renovating and rebuilding our roads, rails, and runways.

♦ There ♦s no such thing as a Democratic or Republican bridge, and there ♦s no such thing as a Democratic or Republican job when it comes to rebuilding our aging infrastructure, ♦ said Secretary LaHood, who was joined by state and local officials. ♦ ♦ Congress needs to pass the transportation portion of the American Jobs Act as soon as possible so we can continue to modernize our transportation systems and keep our economy moving forward. ♦

The transportation piece of President Obama's American Jobs Act would make an immediate investment of \$50 billion in America's transportation infrastructure and put people back to work upgrading 150,000 miles of road, laying or maintaining 4,000 miles of train tracks, restoring 150 miles of runways, and putting in place a next-generation air-traffic control system that will reduce travel time and delays.

The President's legislation would also make a \$10 billion investment to create a nonpartisan National Infrastructure Bank that would operate independently and issue loans for major transportation and infrastructure projects based on two criteria: how badly a road, bridge, transit, water, or energy project is needed and how much good it would do for the economy. ♦ These investments would also be paid for without adding a dime to the deficit; resources would come from a balanced deficit reduction plan that

includes closing corporate tax loopholes and asking the wealthiest Americans to pay their fair share.

The Jobs Act would invest \$50 billion in crucial transportation projects, including about \$1.4 billion for projects across Pennsylvania.♦♦♦ As part of that \$1.4 billion, Pennsylvania would receive \$384.2 million in much-needed federal transit assistance that could be used to repair and rehabilitate infrastructure such as the Bridgeport Viaduct that Secretary LaHood visited today, which was built by the Philadelphia and Western Railroad a century ago in 1911.

The 3,175-foot bridge carries approximately 24,000 Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority♦s (SEPTA) Norristown High Speed Line passengers over the Schuylkill River in Montgomery County each month.♦ The viaduct also connects passengers to the Norristown Transportation Center, a major intermodal transfer point that♦s also served by eight local bus routes and the Manayunk/Norristown commuter rail line, as well as inter-city bus service.

♦Southeastern Pennsylvania, home to some of the oldest transit infrastructure in the nation, is in need of a 21st Century overhaul,♦ said Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff.♦ ♦Passing the American Jobs Act will put nearly a thousand Pennsylvanians to work rehabilitating the Bridgeport-Norristown viaduct alone, modernizing the Jenkintown power substation, or upgrading the Levittown Station on the Trenton Line, giving hundreds of thousands of SEPTA riders a more reliable and desirable commute to work each day.♦

The transportation investments made under the American Jobs Act include:

- \$27 billion for rebuilding roads and bridges
- \$9 billion for repairing bus and rail transit systems
- \$5 billion for innovative large-scale projects selected through a competitive national grant program
- \$4 billion to continue constructing America's high-speed rail network
- \$2 billion for improving airport facilities
- \$2 billion for upgrades to Amtrak equipment, cars, and stations
- \$1 billion to put in place NextGen air traffic control system

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Announces Nearly \$35 Million to Improve Transportation Choices and Job Access for Military Families



Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative recognizes unique challenges facing America's military on the home front

11/9/2011

Contact: Paul Griffo

202-366-4064

WASHINGTON ♦ U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced \$34.6 million for 55 projects in 32 states and Guam to enhance access to local, affordable transportation services for military families and spouses, and wounded warriors.

Today's announcement complements the Obama Administration's Joining Forces initiative led by First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden. This comprehensive, national effort is mobilizing all sectors of society to give our service members and their families ♦ employment opportunities and support.

♦The Obama Administration is committed to providing our military veterans and their families with the resources they need and deserve, ♦ Secretary LaHood said. ♦These projects will better connect them with a range of reliable, affordable transportation options so they can get to work as well as the supermarket, their kid's day care center, medical facilities, and other destinations. ♦

Many military families live in suburban and rural communities where filling the gas tank for long commutes is expensive and public transportation is limited. Projects funded by the Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative will bridge the gap by enabling states and communities to build or expand so-called ♦one-click, one-call♦ centers that offer comprehensive information on local transportation options, and other community services, with just a single phone call or click of the mouse. Typically, such information is not available in one convenient place, and better local coordination will result in better services for veterans and nonveterans alike.

♦Military families and veterans must be able to take full advantage of the transportation resources in their communities, ♦ said Peter Rogoff, Administrator of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), which manages the grants through its discretionary Bus and Bus Facilities Program.

◆ Every service member who returns home or a spouse who relocates to a new community deserves the best possible chance to earn a reliable paycheck and that means having access to reliable transportation choices. ◆

The grant selection process was highly competitive, and FTA reviewed 70 eligible proposals representing \$52 million in funding requests. Examples of key projects receiving federal funds include:

- \$2 million to the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority in central Massachusetts to expand an existing one-call center by adding agencies serving local veterans. The center will offer an array of traveler and community services and act as a one-stop shop to military families and spouses who need them.
- \$2 million to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to work with the state's Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to create a network of four regional one-call centers and websites that bring individual transportation providers together into a regionally coordinated system to meet the needs of area military families, veterans, and others.
- \$1.9 million to the Jacksonville Transportation Authority to implement a one-call/one-click transportation resource center. The project will expand access to the regional scheduling system via internet and phone and give veterans access to a multitude of regional transportation, including public transit, vanpools and private transportation companies.
- \$614,000 to the Colorado Department of Transportation to create an information and assistance center and a coordinated scheduling center for the Denver region, which is home to nearly 200,000 veterans. Veterans are closely involved in the planning process.
- \$608,000 to the Indian Nations Council of Governments in the Tulsa, Oklahoma region to create a coordinated one-call transportation center covering 26 counties, including Muskogee, where a VA Medical Center veterans' transportation service pilot project is under way. The center will use technology to connect numerous rural transit and veteran transportation providers as a way to assess and address ongoing transportation needs.

A complete list of funded projects is available at <http://fta.dot.gov/grants/13094.html>.

The Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative is led by the federal Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility, a permanent partnership of federal departments working together to better coordinate federal programs on behalf of people with disabilities, the elderly and low-income individuals. The Council is chaired by Secretary LaHood.

In addition to USDOT, the Department of Veterans Affairs is contributing up to \$3 million for the VA health care network to coordinate veterans' transportation needs with community transportation systems. The Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy is contributing \$250,000 for social media tools and training to include veterans and the military in community transportation decision-making. The Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Defense are also lending critical support, in part through their extensive networks of community-based advocates. Additional in-kind support is provided by over a dozen national veteran service organizations.

Today's announcement supports President Obama's Veterans Employment Initiative, an ongoing effort to win major private sector commitments to veteran and military spouse employment. To date, 96 companies have formed a public-private partnership with the Department of Defense to hire military spouses. And more than 25 individual companies have stepped up and committed to veteran hiring or training targets, including, most recently, the American Logistics Association and its affiliates, which pledge to hire 25,000 veterans and spouses by the end of 2013. For more information visit: www.whitehouse.gov/joiningforces.

[Additional information on the Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative is available here.](#)

###

FTA Deputy Administrator McMillan Joins SunLine Transit in Southern California to Tout Jobs and Innovation in Sustainable Transportation



FTA's National Fuel Cell Bus Program Leverages Federal, Private Investments in America's Green Transportation Future

11/14/2011

**Contact: Paul Griffo
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THOUSAND PALMS, CA Deputy Federal Transit Administrator Therese McMillan today joined officials from the SunLine Transit Agency for the launch of a new hydrogen-powered fuel-cell bus that will contribute to green transportation while creating thousands of manufacturing-related jobs in the United States. McMillan was joined by Cochella Mayor Eduardo Garcia along with private-industry executives and California environmental officials.

Building sustainable, energy-efficient transit vehicles and facilities will put thousands of Americans to work and create a marketplace for valuable 21st century green jobs, said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. But we must continue to invest in the cutting-edge transportation research and manufacturing that will keep our economy moving forward.

The state-of-the-art, zero-emission American Fuel Cell Bus that SunLine is putting on the road is the product of an innovative federal, state and private-sector partnership. Over the last five years, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has invested more than \$75 million through the National Fuel Cell Bus Program to help spur projects like this through an entire lifecycle from the early research stage all the way to the real-world testing of commercially viable clean-fuel vehicles that deliver a reliable, dependable ride. In addition to FTA, funding partners include CALSTART, the California Air Resources Board, and the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

We're putting the world on notice that American ingenuity, and American manufacturing, are alive and well and creating good jobs here in California all across the country, McMillan said. FTA is enormously proud to be a catalyst spurring this industry forward, and to have SunLine on board as a willing partner.

The American Fuel Cell bus is comprised almost entirely of American-made components by companies such as Ballard Power Systems in Lowell, MA, BAE System Controls in Johnson City, New York, and El Dorado National in Riverside, CA. At least 24 companies, in states from Texas to Minnesota to Georgia, had a hand in making the bus♦creating and sustaining hundreds of good manufacturing, engineering, and assembly jobs in the process.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces Over \$100 Million to Promote Innovative and Clean-Fuel Transit Projects



11/17/2011

**Contact: Paul Griffo
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[Federal Register Notice \(PDF\)](#)

WASHINGTON ♦ U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced that 46 innovative transit projects chosen for their capacity to help cut the nation's dependence on oil and create a marketplace for 21st century ♦green♦ jobs will share \$112 million in funding from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

♦These grants will put thousands of Americans back to work building sustainable, energy-efficient transit vehicles and facilities across the country, ♦said Secretary LaHood. ♦The Obama Administration is committed to investing in the cutting-edge transportation projects that will keep our economy moving forward. ♦

Projects were selected through the FTA's competitive Fiscal Year 2011 Sustainability Initiative, which includes funding from two FTA programs: the Clean Fuels Grant Program and the TIGGER III (Transit Investment in Greenhouse Gas and Energy Reduction) Grant Program.

Examples of key projects receiving federal funds include:

- South Florida Regional Transportation Authority's Tri-Rail project will receive approximately \$5.7 million from the TIGGER III Program to showcase Tri-Rail's first green, LEED certified, sustainable stations, which will generate more than 100 percent of the station's energy demand through solar panels. ♦ The project will send excess energy back to the power grid and store daytime energy for nighttime lighting of the station, parking area, and other parts of the facility.
- The Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) will receive two ♦ grants, one for \$5 million to replace diesel buses with hybrid buses that will reduce fuel costs and save money, and another for \$1.4 million to install a ♦wayside energy storage system♦ on the Market-Frankford rail line, consisting of a battery that stores energy generated by braking trains. The stored electrical power can then be used later whenever energy is needed.

- The Connecticut Department of Transportation will receive \$5 million to purchase a stationary fuel cell for CTTransit's New Haven Division Bus maintenance facility. The fuel cell will provide up to 3.3 million kilowatt-hours per year, or approximately 59 percent of the facility's annual electric use.

Clean Fuels Grant recipients were awarded competitively based on the project's ability to help communities achieve or maintain the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone and carbon monoxide while supporting emerging clean fuel and advanced propulsion technologies for transit buses.

TIGGER III grants were competitively awarded based on the ability of projects to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions while providing a return on the investment. Since 2009, the TIGGER program has invested in numerous innovative transit projects that have brought to market advanced fuel-cell and hydrogen-powered buses and allow for the development of sustainable transportation stations.

The Federal Transit Administration is tapping into American innovation and ingenuity to develop and build leading edge energy efficient transportation technologies, said FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff. These continued investments help combat the pain commuters feel at the gas pump and curb the harmful greenhouse gas emissions that pollute the air we breathe.

The Federal Transit Administration reviewed 266 project applications for both grant programs representing more than \$1 billion in funding requests from transit providers across the country. [A full list of successful proposals can be found here \(PDF\)](#).



###

FTA Deputy Administrator McMillan Joins MARTA for Grand Opening of Innovative Solar-Powered Bus Facility



Locally Manufactured Solar Canopy Will Reduce Energy Costs by Nearly One Half

11/18/2011

**Contact: Paul Griffo
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DECATUR, Ga. ♦ Deputy Transit Administrator Therese McMillan today joined officials from the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) for the grand opening of a locally manufactured solar-powered bus garage canopy near Atlanta, highlighting progress toward environmental sustainability and energy independence at one of the largest urban transit agencies in the nation. The Laredo Garage solar canopy, which was funded by a \$10.8 million federal grant, is the largest structure of its kind in Georgia and the second largest within a U.S. transit system.

♦The Obama Administration is committed to building sustainable, energy-efficient facilities like this one that create jobs, provide affordable transportation options, and showcase American innovation, ♦ said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. ♦This project is a great example of what American scientists, engineers, and construction workers can achieve when we invest in the transportation projects we need to keep our economy moving forward. ♦

The 190,000 square-foot garage uses more than 4,800 photovoltaic panels installed on the roof canopy and is expected to save nearly \$160,000 in utility expenses annually, cutting the garage's electric bill nearly in half. Further savings will be achieved as buses parked in 220 stalls beneath the shaded canopy will need less fuel for air conditioning. The project's environmental benefits are equivalent to planting more than 285 acres of trees annually.

♦FTA is proud to be MARTA's partner on a project that clearly demonstrates the transit industry's capacity for innovation and ingenuity, ♦ McMillan said. ♦We will continue to support competitive projects that help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, spur the transit industry to reduce costs and increase efficiencies through smart energy policies, and create more green jobs for the 21st century. ♦

Construction of the Laredo solar canopy project created approximately 20 jobs and helped to sustain or create other jobs at the Georgia-based companies that did most of the work, including New South Construction and Circle D Enterprises, which managed the design-build aspects of the project, and Suniva, which fabricated the solar panels.

The garage features a 1.2 megawatt power-generating system that will be connected to the Laredo bus maintenance facility. Half of the structure will be for the photovoltaic system and the remaining portion provides shade for the buses.

The Laredo solar canopy project was funded completely with \$10.8 million awarded through FTA's first round of Transit Investments for Greenhouse Gas and Energy Reduction (TIGGER) grants as part of the American Investment and Recovery Act in 2009.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces \$275.3 Million for Connecticut's First Bus Rapid Transit System



Service Will Relieve Congestion, Speed Commuters Along I-84 Corridor and Create Over 4,000 Construction-related Jobs

11/21/2011

**Contact: Paul Griffo
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NEW BRITAIN, CT ◆ U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced an agreement to provide \$275.3 million from the Federal Transit Administration to help build the New Britain-Hartford Busway, Connecticut's first bus rapid transit system.

"New Britain, Hartford and communities across the country cannot wait for crucial upgrades to the roads, bridges, rail lines and bus routes they depend on every day," said Secretary LaHood. "We need to invest in strong transportation systems to lay a solid foundation for future economic growth."

Riders will be able to board the buses at several stations, and then bypass traffic on I-84 by traveling along exclusive bus lanes to destinations in downtown New Britain and Hartford. The project, which will take roughly two years to complete, is expected to create more than 4,000 construction-related jobs and 100 permanent jobs.

FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff signed the full-funding grant agreement during a ceremony at Central Connecticut State University today in New Britain. The grant clears the way for the Connecticut Department of Transportation to begin construction of the bus rapid transit system and covers about half the total cost of the \$567 million project. Rogoff was joined by Connecticut Governor Dan Malloy, U.S. Senator Joe Lieberman, U.S. Representative John Larson, New Britain Mayor Tim O'Brien and Connecticut Department of Transportation Commissioner Dan Redeker.

"This forward-thinking transportation solution will change the way Connecticut's commuters get to work and school, while creating thousands of jobs right now at a time when they are needed most," said Rogoff. "This is a long-overdue project that will help people spend less time sitting in punishing traffic along I-84 and more time at home with their families."

The busway will operate within an exclusive roadway along a 9.4-mile abandoned railroad right-of-way between downtown New Britain and downtown Hartford. The project will offer 11 stations, park and ride connections to other suburban transit service, and 31 new clean fuel buses that will serve the communities of New Britain, Newington, West Hartford, and Hartford, and connect to Amtrak intercity rail service at Hartford's Union Station.

Residents in surrounding communities will have many options to connect to the busway, including commuter express, shuttle, circulator and feeder bus services. In addition, a multi-use trail will be constructed near the busway along a five-mile stretch between downtown New Britain and Newington, providing pedestrian and bicycle access at five stations.

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Signs \$900 Million Funding Agreements Advancing Light Rail in Houston



Construction Under Way on Transit Expansion Will Create Over 2,000 Jobs

11/28/2011

**Contact: Paul Griffo
202-366-4064**

FTA 58-11

HOUSTON ♦ U.S. Department of Transportation ♦s Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today sealed two agreements providing \$900 million in federal funds to extend Houston ♦s major light rail system by an additional 12 miles.

The two projects being funded, the North and Southeast lines, are already under construction, with over 400 workers on the job now and 1,800 additional jobs expected over the next two years.

♦The Obama Administration is proud to support Houston ♦s ongoing efforts to offer more good transportation choices that improve access to jobs and the region ♦s many attractions, while reducing area congestion, pollution, and our dependence on oil, ♦ U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said. ♦We need to invest in strong transportation systems like this one to lay a solid foundation for future economic growth."

FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff was joined by Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, U.S. Representatives Gene Green, Al Green, and Sheila Jackson Lee, Houston Mayor Annise Parker, and officials from Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO) at the signing ceremony for the two full-funding grant agreements.

♦The fourth largest city in the United States deserves a world class transit system that will meet the region's needs for the 21st century, and the investments we are making today will accomplish that," ♦Administrator Rogoff said. ♦The residents of Houston understand ♦that good public transportation is key to building a successful, sustainable, and competitive environment to do business while creating thousands ♦of good jobs along the way. ♦

Expanding Houston METRO ♦s light rail service to the north and the southeast is part of the city ♦s sweeping plan to connect Houston ♦s

workforce with major downtown employment centers, including the Texas Medical Center and the University of Houston. With 18 new passenger stops along the way, the expanded light rail will also take riders to Reliant Park, Toyota Center, Minute Maid Park, a new major league soccer stadium now under construction, the Museum District, and the George R. Brown Convention Center/Discovery Green Park.

The new light rail lines, both scheduled to open for service in 2015, will provide alternatives to congested Interstate 45 and U.S. Route 59. They are expected to carry more than 58,000 riders on weekdays, including more than 13,000 new transit riders a day, by the year 2030. The two \$450 million grant agreements signed today are funded through FTA's New Starts capital transit discretionary grant program.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces \$15 Million to Improve Transit Options for American Indians, Alaska Natives on Tribal Lands



Investments Improve Access to Jobs, Promote Economic Development

12/1/2011

**Contact: Paul Griffo
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WASHINGTON ♦ U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced \$15 million to help American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments invest in public transit to help improve access to employment centers and promote economic development on tribal lands.

"With unemployment among American Indians at an unacceptably high rate, reliable public transportation offers a vital link to jobs, training centers and other essential services," Secretary LaHood said. "The Obama Administration is committed to working with leaders in Indian country to improve transportation connections while boosting economic conditions and creating jobs in tribal communities."

The money, which is awarded through the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Tribal Transit Program, will provide grants to tribes in 25 states for 67 separate projects. The projects will focus on maintaining existing transit operations during the economic downturn and enhancing services for seniors and people with disabilities. In addition, some grants will be used to plan or launch new bus, van and commuter service in rural communities that have never been served by public transit before.

"For people who live in rural communities and on tribal lands, access to reliable, affordable public transit is a lifeline," said FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff. "We're committed to ensuring that every American Indian or Alaskan native who needs a ride to earn a paycheck, attend school, see the doctor, or buy groceries has that opportunity."

Eligible grant recipients under the Tribal Transit Program include federally-recognized American Indian tribes and Alaska Native villages, groups, or communities, as identified by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in the Department of the Interior. Some projects receiving money include the following.

- The Quechen Indian Tribe along the California-Arizona border will receive \$232,000 for new transit service on the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation to improve access to employment, education, health services and recreational opportunities between Fort Yuma and Winterhaven.
- The Citizen Potawatomi Nation in Central Oklahoma will receive \$450,000 to increase the on-demand transit services it provides to seniors, tribal elders, persons with disabilities and others with little or no transportation options to meet basic needs such as medical appointments, grocery and clothes shopping, jobs and adult continuing education. ♦
- The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians will receive \$140,000 to continue providing night service, consisting of five routes six nights a week, serving the Qualla Boundary portion of the Cherokee Indian Reservation in Western North Carolina. The service provides safe transportation for those who work at night, as well as for evening shopping and activities.

The Federal Transit Administration reviewed 116 project applications for the Tribal Transit Program, representing more than \$41.6 million in funding requests from tribal transit providers across the country. A full list of grant awards can be found [here](#).

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Approves \$280 Million Infrastructure Loan to Build Denver's Eagle P3 Commuter Rail Line



30-Mile Project Creates Roughly 4,700 Construction-Related Jobs and Reduces Travel Times

12/2/2011

Contact: Paul Griffo

202-366-4064

WASHINGTON ♦ U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced a federal loan of up to \$280 million to advance construction on the 30-mile Eagle P3 commuter rail project, which will significantly expand transportation choices in the greater Denver area.

♦ This loan brings Denver a step closer to completing this ambitious and far-reaching project that offers better transportation choices in one of the most densely populated regions of the country, ♦ Secretary LaHood said. ♦ We ♦ are proud to promote a solid foundation for the region ♦ s economic growth, while creating thousands of good jobs in Colorado. ♦

The project is a two-pronged effort. The western segment of Eagle P3, known as the Gold Line, will serve the suburbs of Arvada and Wheat Ridge. The East Line will run from Denver ♦ s historic Union Station nearly 23 miles east to Denver International Airport and will connect to existing light rail and bus service. Both lines are under construction and roughly 4,700 construction-related jobs are expected to be generated by the work.

The Department's Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) program, which provides credit assistance for infrastructure projects, is the source of the loan to the Denver Regional Transportation District (RTD). This funding boost is in addition to a \$1 billion federal funding agreement for the project signed in August by Secretary LaHood and Federal Transit Administrator (FTA) Peter Rogoff.

RTD is the first transit agency in the nation to successfully pursue a comprehensive public-private partnership, or P3, that draws on a mix of federal loans and grants and private investment to move major capital transit projects in the region forward. The partnership encompasses all phases of design, construction, financing, operation, and maintenance.

♦ Denver and its partners are working together to build a modern rail transit system that promises to cut almost in half the time it now takes to

get from downtown Denver to the airport," said FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff. "Today's investment helps to ensure that the construction work already under way remains on track, and that thousands of workers can count on a steady paycheck."

RTD will use the TIFIA loan to fund a portion of its contribution to the project and will begin drawing on the funds in 2013. In addition to FTA's contribution to the project, a consortium of private companies, known as the [Denver Transit Partners](#), is responsible for financing around 24 percent of the project through tax-exempt private-activity bonds issued by RTD, equity contributions and other means.

The entire project should be completed in 2016. The new railcars slated for use on the commuter line will be assembled in the United States and will consist of at least 60 percent US-made components, consistent with the FTA's Buy America requirements.

Together, the Eagle P3 project and Denver Union Station's ongoing renovation are part of RTD's far-reaching FasTracks program—a voter-approved, multiyear, multibillion-dollar transit expansion program covering 140 miles of rail and bus corridors that will help Denver to successfully manage growth and compete for business for years to come.

###

U.S. Department of Transportation Gives Green Light for I-5 Columbia River Crossing



12/7/2011

**Contact: Doug Hecox
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WASHINGTON ♦ Plans to replace the aging Interstate 5 Columbia River Crossing Bridges and build an interstate transit link can now move forward, U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced today.

The approval ♦ known as a "record of decision" (ROD) ♦ represents the final clearance of the project's environmental review and allows Oregon and Washington to begin right-of-way acquisition and construction.

"This project is a great example of why we need to strengthen our infrastructure. The old facility is outdated and it no longer meets the needs of the traveling public or commerce in the region." said Secretary LaHood.

"It is one more instance of why the Obama Administration is focusing on key transportation investments to create jobs, strengthen the economy, and provide travelers with affordable, efficient options for reaching their destinations."

The Columbia River Crossing project will replace the I-5 bridges over the Columbia River that connect Vancouver, Wash., to Portland, Ore. At a cost of approximately \$3 billion for bridge, transit and highway improvements, the project is considered a long-term, comprehensive solution to address safety and congestion problems on five miles of I-5 from State Route 500 in Vancouver to Victory Boulevard in Portland and will be funded through a combination of state and federal sources. In addition, numerous improvements to bike/pedestrian facilities will accommodate the bridge ♦s 1,000 daily pedestrians and 5,000 daily bicyclists anticipated by 2030.

"This is a vital transportation improvement on one of the busiest interstates in the country," Federal Highway Administrator Victor Mendez said. "The new bridge will put people to work and help support business and economic growth."

"We are making the long-sought after rail transit link between Portland and Vancouver possible," Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff said. "This is the type of forward-leaning project that will greatly benefit the entire region well into the future."

Freight congestion is one of the key reasons behind the bridge replacement project. I-5 is the most important freight freeway on the West Coast linking international, national and regional markets in Canada, Mexico and the Pacific Rim with destinations throughout the western United States. Freight volumes moved by truck to and from the area are projected to increase over the years, causing additional delays and cost to shippers. Currently, the bridge serves nearly 130,000 vehicles daily with travel demand expected to grow to 180,000 vehicles daily by 2030.

The nearly three-mile light rail portion of the project will extend from Portland's Expo Center MAX station to Clark College in Vancouver. It is expected that the transit rail project will reduce the duration of daily congestion on I-5 near the Columbia River by 60 percent. By 2030, the light rail line is expected to carry more than 22,000 daily passengers.

The current I-5 crossing of the Columbia River consists of two side-by-side bridges. The bridge carrying northbound traffic was built in 1916, and the bridge carrying southbound traffic was built in 1958. Both bridges are inadequate to carry the current traffic volumes, and the mechanical lift spans that are raised to accommodate river traffic bring interstate traffic to a standstill. The geometry of the bridges makes the existing crossing one of the most unsafe highway locations on the I-5 corridor its crash rate is double that of similar bridges." In addition, the bridge does not meet the current bridge design standards for earthquakes.

###

U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces \$116 Million to Help Utah Complete 70 Miles of New Light Rail Service in Salt Lake Region



Final Leg of TRAX Light Rail Adds Jobs to 3,100 Already Created

12/12/2011

**Contact: David Longo
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DRAPER, Utah ♦ U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced an agreement to provide \$116 million from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to extend TRAX light rail transit service from downtown Salt Lake City into the suburb of Draper. The 3.8-mile extension is the final project in a bold seven-year, seventy-mile effort to significantly expand transit options for residents and commuters in the Salt Lake City area, one of the nation's fastest growing cities.

"When completed, Salt Lake's transit system will connect dozens of communities along the fast-growing Wasatch Front, support new economic development, and generate thousands of good jobs for the community," said Secretary LaHood. "This is a terrific example of how investing in our transportation systems lays a strong foundation for our nation's continued economic growth."

FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff signed the funding agreement during a ceremony today at the site of the new Draper Town Center Station. Utah State Representative and UTA Board Chair Greg Hughes, Draper Mayor Darrell Smith, Salt Lake County Mayor Peter Corroon, Utah Transit Authority (UTA) General Manager Michael Allegra and other local officials were also on hand for the ceremony.

"FTA has proudly supported Utah's vision to create a new, modern transit system in just seven years, delivered on time and on budget," FTA Administrator Rogoff said. "The last leg of this effort means that roughly 70,000 commuters traveling daily between Sandy and Draper will have seamless, convenient access to downtown jobs without sitting in I-15 traffic."

The Draper Light Rail Project, a 3.8-mile extension of UTA's current TRAX service, will add jobs to the 3,100 construction-related jobs already created. The project, which includes three new stations with park-and-ride-facilities,

will run parallel to the heavily traveled Interstate 15 corridor and make it easier for suburban residents to commute to jobs in Salt Lake City.

The total cost for the Draper extension project is \$194 million. Construction is already under way and expected to be completed in December 2013

The extension of TRAX service to Draper is the final project in UTA's Frontlines 2015 Program, a \$2.9 billion program to build 70 miles of rail in seven years and place a major transit stop within reach of every resident in the UTA service area. Four new light rail lines, one new commuter rail line and a new light rail maintenance facility will more than double UTA's existing rail system. Including today's funding announcement, FTA has committed approximately \$570 million in total to the Frontlines 2015 Program, including \$25 million through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

###

Secretary LaHood Announces Funding for 46 Innovative Transportation Projects Through Third Round of Popular TIGER Program



Job-Creating Grants Announced Months Ahead of Schedule as Part of the Obama Administration's "We Can't Wait" Initiative

12/15/2011

**Contact: Justin Nisly
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U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced today that 46 transportation projects in 33 states and Puerto Rico will receive a total of \$511 million from the third round of the U.S. Department of Transportation's popular TIGER program. The announcement comes months ahead of schedule, and will allow communities to move forward with critical, job-creating infrastructure projects including road and bridge improvements; transit upgrades; freight, port and rail expansions; and new options for bicyclists and pedestrians.

The Department of Transportation (DOT) received 848 project applications from all 50 states, Puerto Rico and Washington, DC, requesting a total of \$14.29 billion, far exceeding the \$511 million made available for grants under the TIGER III program.

"The overwhelming demand for these grants clearly shows that communities across the country can't afford to wait any longer for Congress to put Americans to work building the transportation projects that are critical to our economic future," said Secretary LaHood. "That's why we've taken action to get these grants out the door quickly, and that is why we will continue to ask Congress to make the targeted investments we need to create jobs, repair our nation's transportation systems, better serve the traveling public and our nation's businesses, factories and farms, and make sure our economy continues to grow."

In November, President Obama directed DOT to take common sense steps to expedite transportation projects by accelerating the process for review and approval and by leveraging private sector funding to promote growth and job creation. As part of that initiative, DOT accelerated the TIGER III application review process and has announced the awards before the end of 2011 months ahead of the planned spring 2012 announcement.

The grants will fund a wide range of innovative transportation projects in urban and rural areas across the country:

- Of the \$511 million in TIGER III funds available for grants, more than \$150 million will go to critical projects in rural areas.❖
- Roughly 48% of the funding will go to road and bridge projects, including more than \$64 million for Complete Streets projects that will spur small business growth and benefit motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians.❖
- 29% of the funding will support transit projects like the Westside Multimodal Transit Center in San Antonio.
- 12% will help build port projects like the Port of New Orleans Rail Yard Improvements.
- 10% will go to freight rail projects like the Muldraugh Bridge Replacement in Kentucky.
- Three grants were also directed to tribal governments to create jobs and address critical transportation needs in Indian country.
- Three grants will provide better multimodal access to airports, including DFW in Texas.

Work has already begun on 33 planning projects while 58 capital projects are under way across the country from the previous two rounds of TIGER, and an additional 13 projects are expected to break ground over the next six months.

In 2009 and 2010, the Department received a total of 2,400 applications requesting \$76 billion, greatly exceeding the \$2.1 billion available in the TIGER I and TIGER II grant programs.❖❖ In the previous two rounds, the TIGER program awarded grants to 126 freight, highway, transit, port and bicycle/pedestrian projects in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

TIGER grants are awarded to transportation projects that have a significant national or regional impact.❖ Projects are chosen for their ability to contribute to the long-term economic competitiveness of the nation, improve the condition of existing transportation facilities and systems, increase energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improve the safety of U.S. transportation facilities and enhance the quality of living and working environments of communities through increased transportation choices and connections.❖ The Department also gives priority to projects that are expected to create and preserve jobs quickly and stimulate increases in economic activity.❖

The continuing demand for TIGER grants highlights the need for further investment in the nation's transportation infrastructure that could be provided by President Obama's American Jobs Act.❖ The American Jobs Act would provide \$50 billion to improve 150,000 miles of road, replace

4,000 miles of track, and restore 150 miles of runways, creating jobs for American workers and building a safer, more efficient transportation network.◆ It would also provide \$10 billion for the creation of a bipartisan National Infrastructure bank.◆

[A complete list of grant recipients can be viewed here \(PDF\).](#)

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FTA Administrator Rogoff Joins Maryland Officials to Unveil Clean New Hybrid Buses



Energy-Efficient Hybrid Vehicles Meet ♦Buy America♦ Requirements

12/19/2011

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SILVER SPRING, Md. ♦ Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff joined Maryland officials today to announce the addition of 13 new, energy-efficient hybrid buses to the Montgomery County Ride On service. The new buses will offer a clean, comfortable ride to more than 10,000 commuters, seniors, and others who take transit daily. The vehicles were purchased with \$6.6 million through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

♦For nearly three years now, the Recovery Act has lived up to its promise to strengthen and enhance transportation choices in Montgomery County and across the nation,♦ said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. ♦This is one of the many investments we have made in our transportation infrastructure and our workforce to create new opportunities to put Americans back to work.♦

With the addition of the 12 new hybrid electric-diesel buses and one clean-diesel bus, all built in the United States in compliance with the Buy America law, sustainable vehicles now make up nearly two-thirds of Montgomery County♦s Ride On fleet, and bring the agency closer to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by 2050.

♦The thousands of riders in Montgomery County who depend on buses to get to work, to school, or medical appointments can take pride in knowing that these vehicles are stamped ♦Made in USA♦♦ said FTA Administrator Rogoff. ♦These new buses showcase America♦s ingenuity, innovation, and commitment to a greener energy future.♦

Joining Rogoff at the event were Senator Ben Cardin, Congressman Chris Van Hollen, Congresswoman Donna Edwards, Maryland Transportation Secretary Beverley Swaim-Staley, Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett and others.

Montgomery County♦s new Ride On buses were manufactured by Gillig LLC, the nation♦s second largest transit bus manufacturer, based in Hayward, Calif. The buses meet the Recovery Act♦s Buy America

requirement, meaning all the iron, steel, and manufactured materials used in the buses are produced in the United States. The 13 new buses will be put into service on several of the county's busiest routes in suburban Maryland.

Montgomery County's Ride On bus service is one of the largest suburban-based transit systems in the country, carrying approximately 28 million riders a year, with connecting service to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's Metrobus and Metrorail systems.

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